



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 21, 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

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

PRELUDE: "Blessed Are You"

(Roberta Rowland-Raybold)

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name if the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

L: 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.**

L: 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.

L: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

L: 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.

L: 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:** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

(ELW 645)



1	Christ	is	made	the	sure	foun -	da -	tion,	Christ,	our	head	and
2	To	this	tem -	ple,	where	we	call	you,	come,	O	Lord	of
3	Here	be -	stow	on	all	your	ser -	vants	what	they	seek	from
4	Praise	and	hon -	or	to	the	Fa -	ther,	praise	and	hon -	or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

*GREETING

L: 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

L: Let us pray. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.. **A: Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-14A

The first readings during this summer tell the stories of the early kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. After David was acclaimed king, he conquered Jerusalem, which had not been in the territory of any of the tribes of Israel, and made that city his capital. To cement its prestige, he moved the Ark of the Covenant – the earthly throne of God – permanently to a tent within it. But the Ark seemed to demand something more than a tent. The promise God makes in this passage turns on the double meaning of the word “house” – either a dwelling place or a dynasty.

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ^{14a} I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

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

PSALM: 89

(Sung to the tune Joyous Light ELW 561)

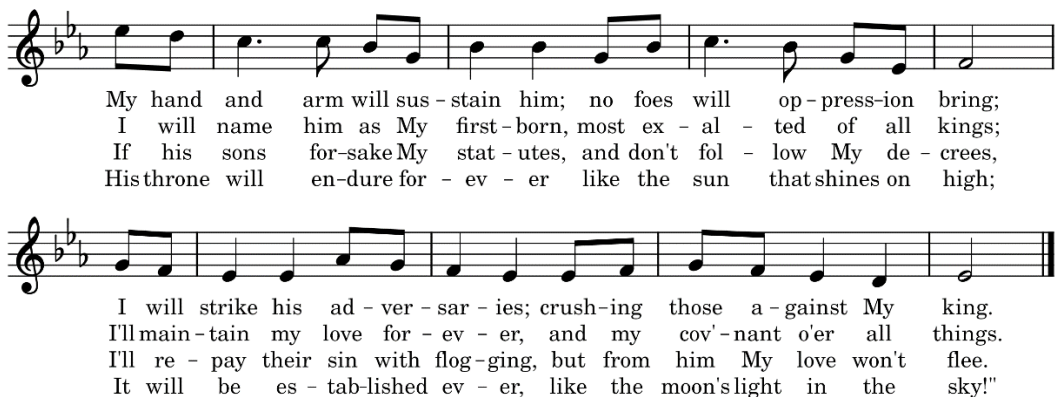
This psalm celebrates God's promise in the first reading that David's dynasty will be everlasting.



1. Once you spoke to us, Your peo-ple: "I've ex - al - ted one from them;
2. "Faith - ful love will rest up - on him; through My name his horn is high.
3. "I'll es - tab - lish him for - ev - er through his line and through his throne;
4. "I won't vi - o - late my cov'-nant; ne - ver change what I have said;



I've called Da - vid as My ser - vant, and with oil a - noin - ted him.
 His hand will be o'er the seas, and 'Fa-ther, God, my rock,' he'll cry!
 His throne will en-dure for - ev - er, like the heav-ens he'll be known.
 I have sworn and won't re - lent for Da-vid's line will ev - er spread!



My hand and arm will sus - tain him; no foes will op - press-ion bring;
 I will name him as My first - born, most ex - al - ted of all kings;
 If his sons for-sake My stat - utes, and don't fol - low My de - crees,
 His throne will en-dure for - ev - er like the sun that shines on high;

I will strike his ad - ver - sar - ies; crush-ing those a - gainst My king.
 I'll main - tain my love for - ev - er, and my cov' - nant o'er all things.
 I'll re - pay their sin with flog-ging, but from him My love won't flee.
 It will be es - tab - lished ev - er, like the moon's light in the sky!"

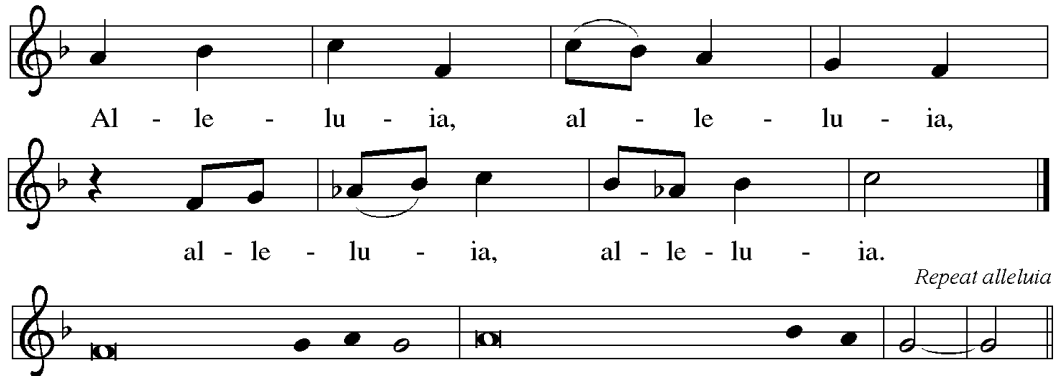
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

For the next several weeks we will be reading through the letter to the church in Ephesus. Like many letters of Paul, this one was written to a community split between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

¹¹ Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*My sheep[†] hear my voice.**

I know them, and they[†] follow me.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

Jesus had sent the disciples out two by two to preach and heal, but has continued his own popular ministry. Verses 35-52 (omitted from today's reading) relate the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, which we will hear next week from John's Gospel.

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

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping

and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

HYMN SING

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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

L: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace. In your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: For the creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends her sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made. In your mercy,
A: hear our prayer.

L: For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes (*especially*): Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony. In your mercy,
A: hear our prayer.

L: For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick (*especially*). Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain. In your mercy,
A: hear our prayer.

L: For this assembly and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: In thanksgiving for those who have died (*especially*): Make us certain that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens with the saints in the household of God. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

L; 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: "Arioso"

(Raymond H. Hann)

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

(ELW 884)

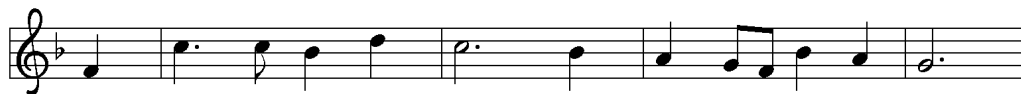
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*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.**

*CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING: "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" (ELW 651)



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: <i>Refrain</i> | 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

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*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

L: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, **A: We thank you, O God.**

L: You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ,
A: We praise you, O God.

L: Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, **A: We entreat you, O God.**

L: Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **A: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

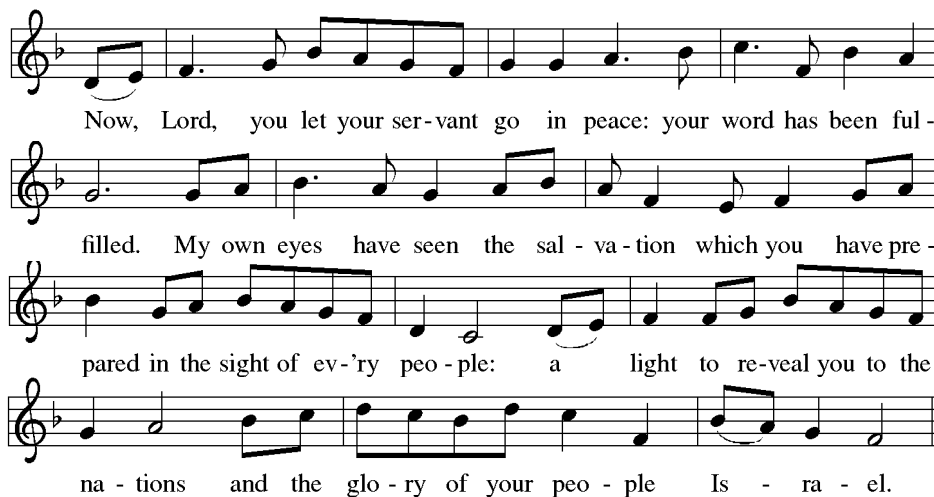
L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us

**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.**

***POST THANKSGIVING CANTICLE – 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*BLESSING

L: 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.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

*DISMISSAL

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

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Song of Rejoicing"

(Robert J. Hugh)



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Michelle McMullen
Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Musician..... Jim Rearick
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 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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