



# TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 16, 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

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

**PRELUDE** — Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.

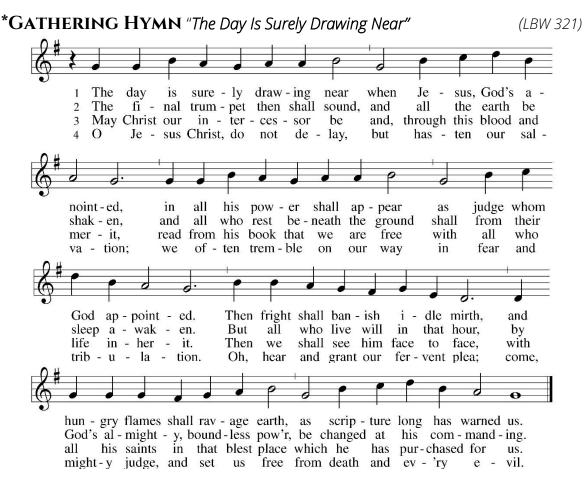
#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. 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.** 



Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–c. 1600; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1917, adapt, Music: ES IST GEWISSLICH, Etlich christlich Lieder, Wittenberg, 1524

#### \*GREETING

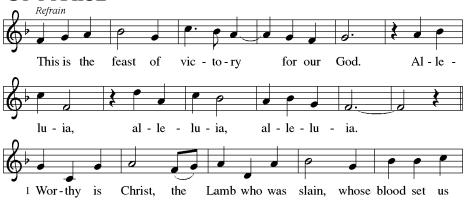
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.** 

# **KYRIE**





#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.** 

# **WORD**

# FIRST READING: ISAIAH 65:17-25

The readings at the end of the year focus on death and last things, when God's reign of justice will be fully ushered in. The prophet promises that God's miraculous rescue of the exiles from Babylon pales in comparison to what the future God has in store.

- <sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.
- <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.
- <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
- for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat,
- for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.
- <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

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

#### PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6

(sung to the tune Beach Spring)

While this song was written almost two hundred years before the first reading, its theme is similar – God's promises of peace and justice are certain.



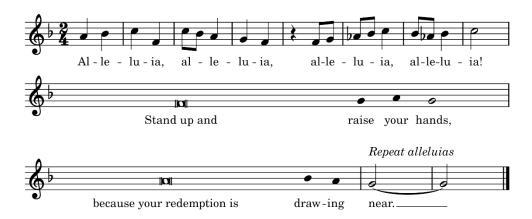
#### **SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13**

This reading is in part an answer to the question, "If we expect Christ's return at any moment, how do we spend the meantime?"

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, siblings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every sibling living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Siblings, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



# \*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:5-19

Jesus' teachings in the days before his betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection were about the last things. Here he teaches in the presence of the Temple, a magnificent structure only recently completed by Herod the Great. While monumental and apparently permanent, it will be destroyed only 40 years later, when the Romans crush a rebellion.

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

# A: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup> They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

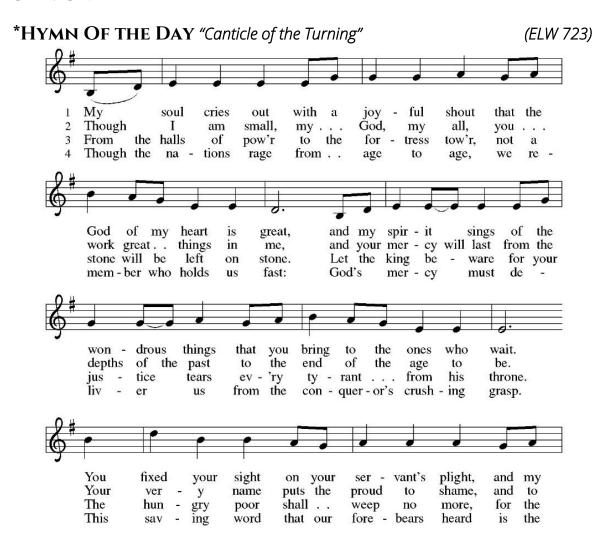
<sup>9</sup> "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

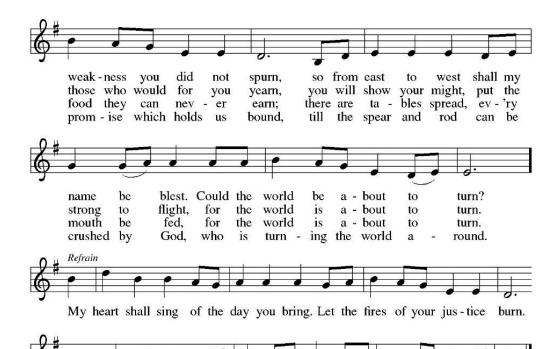
<sup>12</sup> "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup> This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup> So make up your

minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

#### **SERMON**





Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional Text 0 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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#### \*INVITATION TO BAPTISM

#### \*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

#### A brief silence.

L: God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

#### A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

#### A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

#### A: Your mercy is great.

<sup>\*</sup>Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

L: God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

# A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

#### A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness especially Elizabeth of Hungary and Helen Taylor. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

#### A: Your mercy is great.

L: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.** 

#### \*PEACE

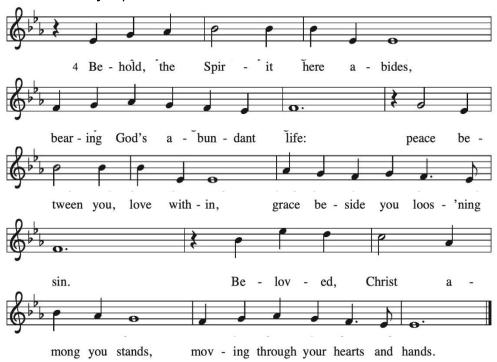
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.** 

# **MEAL**

# OFFERING MUSICAL OFFERING



(ACS 1032)



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952 Music: WEST LEESTAD, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979 Text © 2013 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2013 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

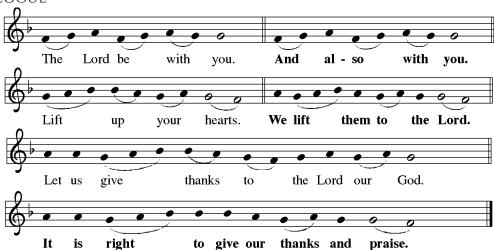
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#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **A: Amen.** 

# \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

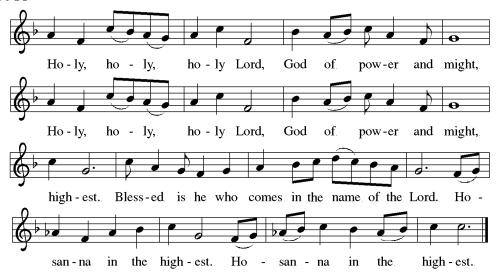
#### \* DIALOGUE



#### \*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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### \*SANCTUS



#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge: we appeal to you for we and your universe are surrounded by evil and bordered by death.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice, hunger, and harm.

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.

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, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints the advent of

his loving redemption for our suffering world.

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

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

#### 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.

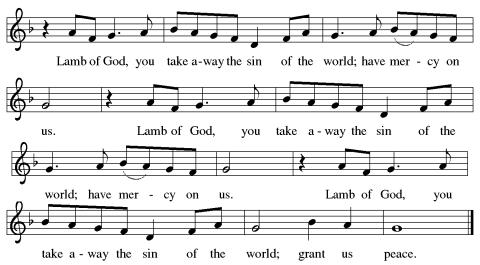
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

#### \*LAMB OF GOD

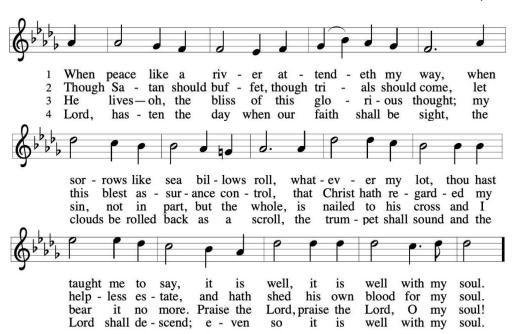


#### **COMMUNION**

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

#### **COMMUNION HYMN:** "When Peace like a River"

(ELW 785)





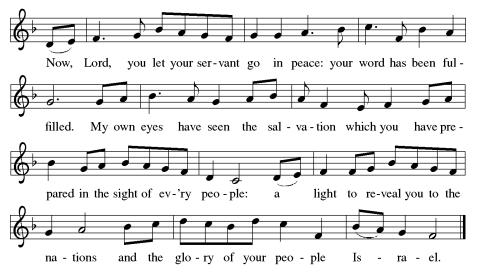
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

#### \*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)



#### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's 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: "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

(ELW 327)



Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt. Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

# \*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake. **A: Thanks be to God.** 

# **POSTLUDE**



#### DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### Sunday, November 16

Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 (9) 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19 Monday, November 17

Ezekiel 11:14-25 Ephesians 4:25—5:2 Psalm 141

#### Tuesday, November 18

Ezekiel 39:21— 40:4 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1 Psalm 141

Wednesday, November 19

Ezekiel 43:1-12 Matthew 23:37—24:14 Psalm 141 Thursday, November 20

2 Chronicles 18:12-22 Hebrews 9:23-28 Psalm 46

Friday, November 21

Zechariah 11:1-17 1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 46

Saturday, November 22

Jeremiah 22:18-30 Luke 18:15-17 Psalm 46



#### **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister	Lauren Tingle
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 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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