



ST PAUL

PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



CHRIST THE KING

NOVEMBER 23, 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

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise

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.**

*GATHERING HYMN "At the Name of Jesus Near"

(ELW 416)



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain

ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;

It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877

Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *Songs of Praise*, © Oxford University Press 1925.

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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
 free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

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

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

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

P: Let us pray: O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 23:1-6

Kings in the ancient Middle East were often referred to as the shepherds of their nation and their people. This is one of many passages in which God reaffirms the promise to David, that his descendants would continue as kings of the Jews forever, a promise which is echoed in seeming ridicule in today's Gospel.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

PSALM: "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

(ELW 250)

This is the song sung at the birth of John the Baptist by his father. John is to be the forerunner of the figure who is described in language which echoes that at the end of the first reading.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:11-20

This paean to the cosmic power of Christ sets him above all earthly rulers.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Repeat alleluias

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an-cestor David.

*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 23:33-43

Crucifixion was kept by the Romans for the offenders who, for some reason, needed to be most obviously dishonored. And because hanging on a tree was a sign of being cursed by God (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) it was scandalous to the Jews as well. And yet on the cross, Jesus shows the sort of king he is.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The

soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."


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

SERMON


*HYMN OF THE DAY "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

(ELW 344)


Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

***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.**

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

***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: We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit as your servants Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant did. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick (*especially*). Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give thanks for all who have died in faith especially Bishop Clement and Father Miguel Agustín Pro. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. 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

*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 -
on your face, stream - ing from the font of grace.

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

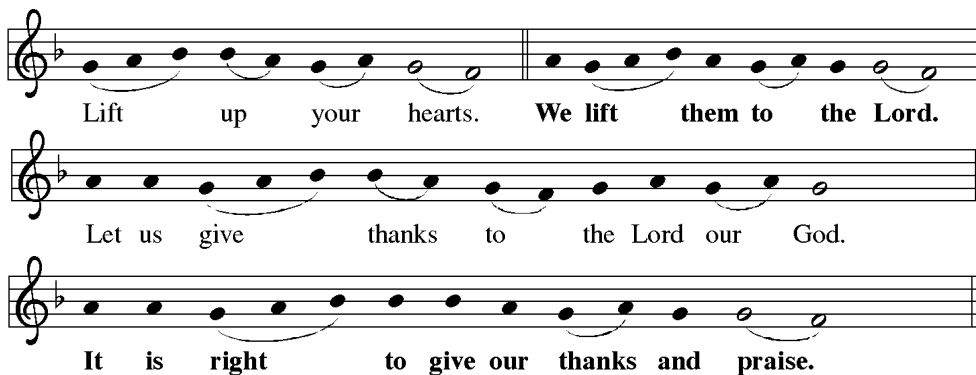
L: Let us pray: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



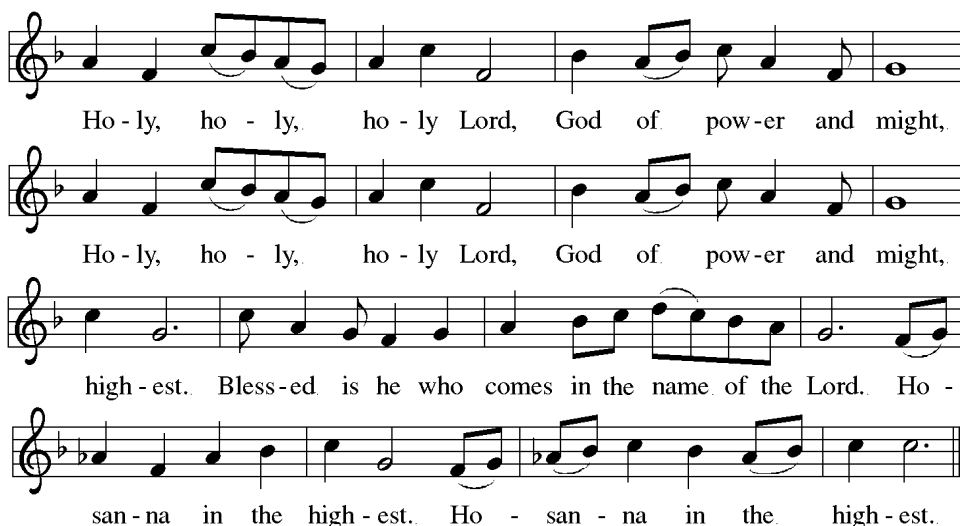
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



*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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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:

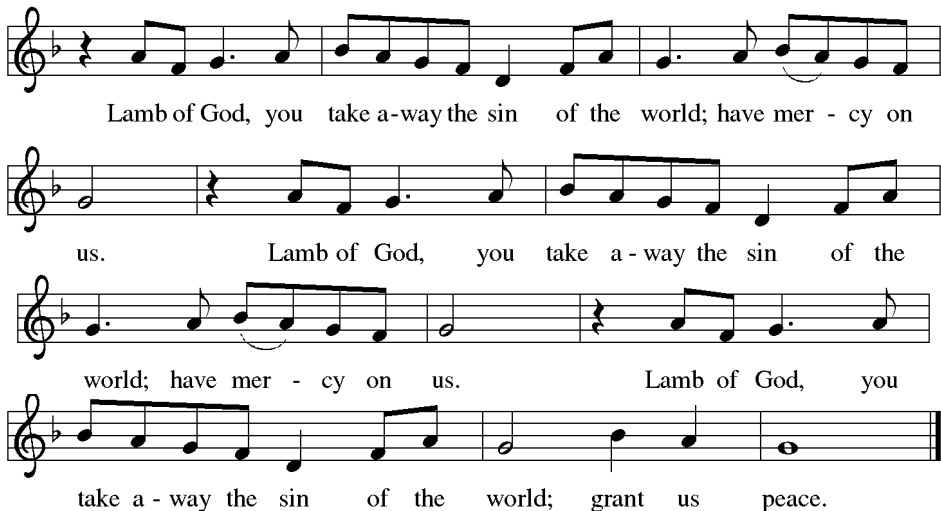
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Beautiful Savior"

(ELW 838)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,
 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

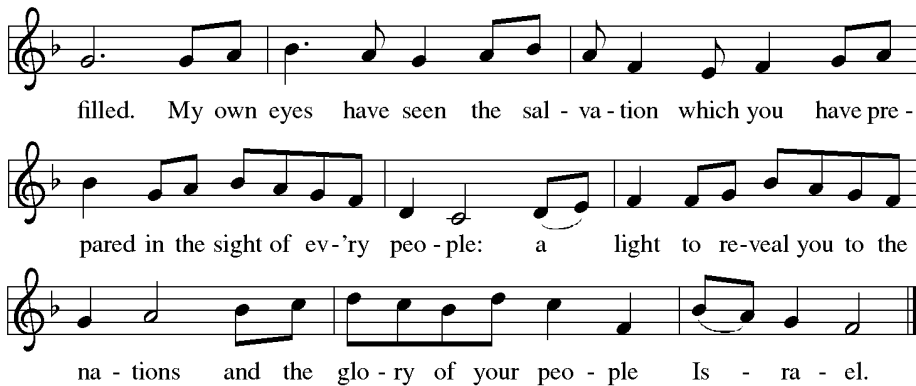
*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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 -



*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: "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

(LBW 38)



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O Ra - diant Sun, when will our
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring ev - er to



down with might - y stride; un - lock the gates, the doors break
hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior King; there shall we laud you and a -



down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light we grope in gloom and dark of night.
hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: German spiritual song, Köln, 1623; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt.
Music: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF, *Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666

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*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Art Reede
Musician..... Jacob Heller
Sacristan..... Karen Magnuson
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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