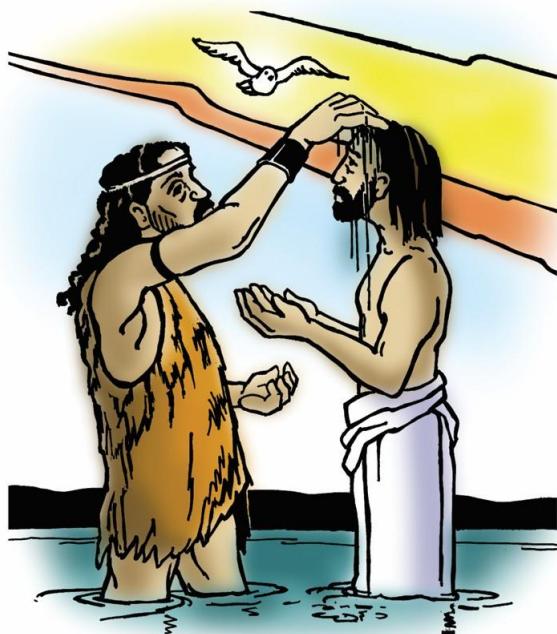




ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 11, 2026

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 intolerance 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

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing..

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: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font.

We gather at this font, O God, creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow. We praise you for the waters of this place— Slab Cabin Run, Beaver Branch, and Rock Spring— and for the water you provide us each day.

Your Spirit hovers over these waters. You bless us with this cleansing water of rebirth and with your endless mercy. All the waters are yours, O God, even streams running low. Hear the cries of all who suffering from drought in this place and all Pennsylvania.

As you saved Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, sustain all who thirst—people, creatures, and the land. By the water of our baptism, teach us to care for your creation and to trust your promise of life.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honor and praise, now and forever.

A: Amen.

The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.

*GATHERING HYMN "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

(ELW 310)



1 Songs of thank-ful- ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph- et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-en ed bod - y, faint - ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702

*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 mercy.

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

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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: ISAIAH 42:1-9

There are several passages about “God’s servant” in this part of Isaiah. It’s not clear whether they originally referred to the author, to the king, or to a personification of the whole nation of Judah. To Christian ears, of course, they describe Jesus.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

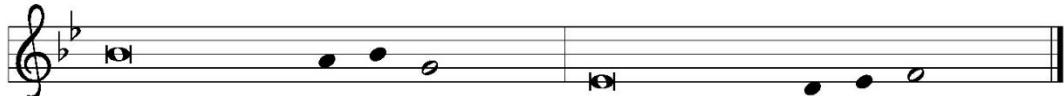
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

PSALM: 29

(chanted to tone 3)

The chief god of many of Israel's neighbors (often a storm god, like Thor) became the ruler by defeating a monster which personified the chaotic ocean. Israel's God has no need to fight a monster – God's sovereignty is complete and unquestioned – but this psalm declares that the storm and the waters (like Jordan in the Gospel) do God's will.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- ry and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the Lord is a pow- erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. R

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- dars of Lebanon;

⁶ the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the Lord
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- ness of Kadesh. R

- ⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
 And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned a- bove the flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king for- evermore.
- ¹¹ O Lord, give strength to your people;
 give them, O Lord, the bless- ings of peace. R

SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-43

Peter has been led by God to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and pulled into proclaiming the Gospel to Gentiles. His proclamation begins with a reference to Jesus' baptism.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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!
 Repeat alleluias

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Be-loved, with whom I am well pleased—

*GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 3:13-17

John the Baptist has just warned that he is only preparing the way for one greater than himself.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Christ, Your Footprints Through The Desert"



1. Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert
2. Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons
3. Son of God, the road from Jor - dan
4. God, in bap - tism you have made us



led to Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you
as by Jor - dan's bank you stood; bathed, though
led at last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up -
one with Christ, our ris - en Lord; freed us,



heard the her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old, pro -
sin - less, with your peo - ple in the riv - er's
on the cross for - sak - en, you ful - filled the
claimed us, cleansed, for - giv - en through the wa - ter



phet - ic dream: "He is com - ing! He is
cleans - ing flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens
Fa - ther's will. Lamb of God, we see you
and the Word. Help us hear your ur - gent



com - ing! He will cleanse the earth with flame!
o - pened; came the Spir - it as a dove;
dy - ing, sin - less, yet for sin - ners slain.
sum - mons, call - ing us to serve you now.



Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the wa - ters!
spoke a Voice be - yond all hear - ing:
But where death rose up to tri - umph,
Send us forth, your sons and daugh - ters,



Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"
"See my Son, the One I love!"
you be - gan your glo - rious reign!
with the cross up - on our brow.

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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**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

L: Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs especially Slab Cabin Run and Rock Spring. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, especially our Pastor Emeritus, Bob Rohrbaugh, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
A: Amen.

*PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "As with Gladness Men of Old vs.3"

(ELW 302)

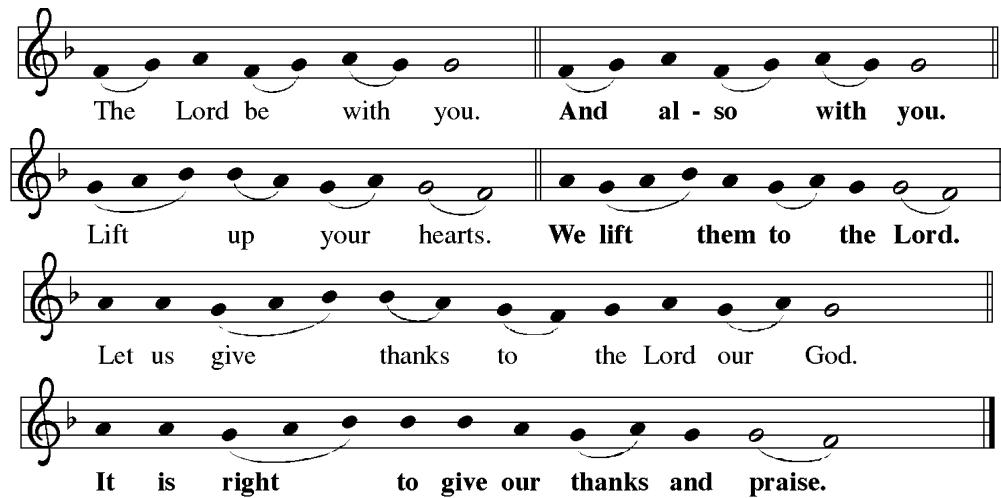
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

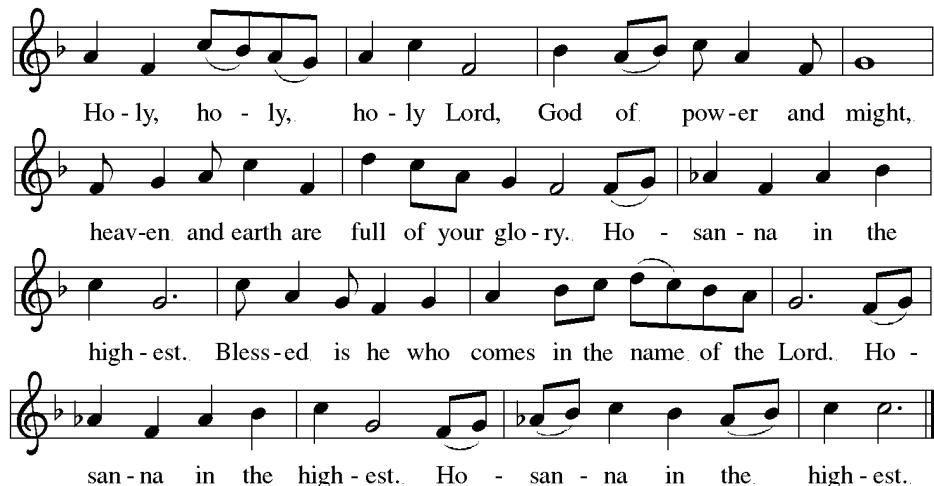
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

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

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Until his great Epiphany, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **A: Amen**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

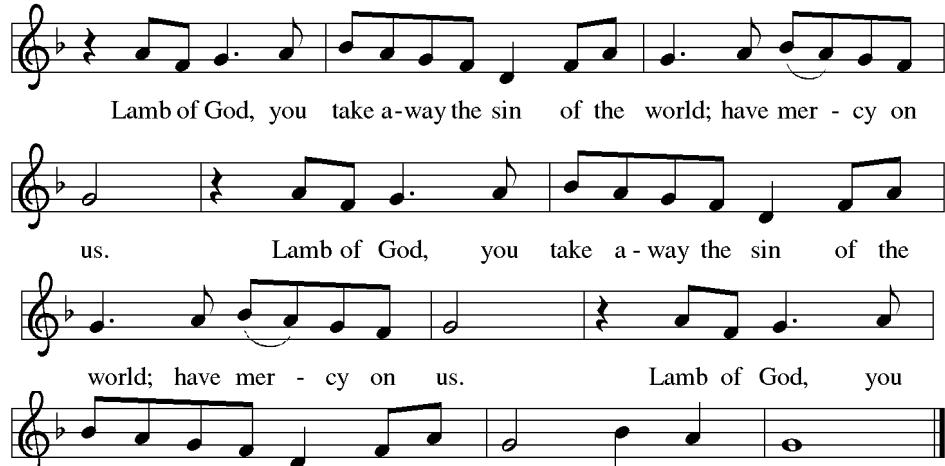
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

*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: "Spirit of Gentleness"

(ELW 396)

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,



stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an- cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dolls and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain

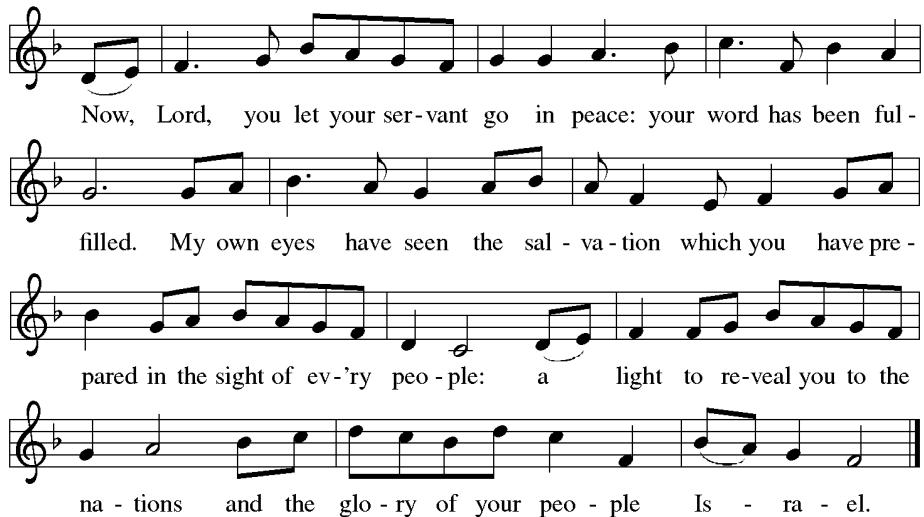


"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

*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 Dimitis (Now, Lord)*



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev -'ry peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

The Pastor prays a prayer for members to bring communion to fellow Christian siblings who could not attend worship this morning.

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: "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

(ELW 304)



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - obeyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Morgen Hummel
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan..... Ann Reede
Reader..... Nate Clinert

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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