



CONVERSION OF PAUL

JANUARY 25, 2026

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!
We are happy to have you join us!

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.

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today we remember a turning point in the Christian story: when Paul, once a violent persecutor of Jesus' followers, had his life turned away from harm and toward life. We call this conversion: a change in direction shaped by encounter, not self-improvement. We gather today because people change. Through water, words, bread, and wine, Christians trust that God keeps opening our eyes and turning us again toward love, justice, and life.

PRELUDE – *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude. You are encouraged to use this time to breathe and center yourself.*

CONFSSION 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.

Silently consider one way you need God's mercy today.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** **A: 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 "By All Your Saints (Conversion of Paul)" (ELW 420)

1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 Praise for the light from heav - en, praise for the voice of awe,
3 Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,

your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
praise for the glo - rious vi - sion the per - se - cu - tor saw.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,

For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
O Lord, for Paul's en - light' - ning we bless your name to - day;
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
come, shine with - in our dark - ness, and guide us on our way.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - ccribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

Listen for how God is speaking to you in the readings

FIRST READING: ACTS 9:1-22

Saul (later referred to as Paul) has become a leader in the violent persecution of Christians in Jerusalem.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" ²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

PSALM: 27: 1, 4-9 (Sung to the tune Saint Patrick's Breastplate (LBW 188))

Light is one of the great themes of the season of Epiphany. As Christ revealed himself to Saul using light in the first reading, light appears in the first verse of today's psalm.

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 1:11-24

Paul's ministry is under attack by those who claim to be more scrupulous and who come with letters of recommendation from Christians in other cities. In his defense, he makes reference to the story we heard in the first reading.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin, ¹² for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵ But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles, I did not confer with any human, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterward I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, ¹⁹ but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not

lie! ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²² and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³ they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me..

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!

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom,

Repeat alleluias

and cured every sickness a - mong the people.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:10-19

In his ministry Paul experienced all of the disasters Jesus predicts in this passage.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ [Jesus] said to [the disciples,] "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom;¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "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. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Breathing Hate, the Huntsman Hurries"

1. Breath - ing hate, the hunts - man hur - ries
 2. Blind - ing light from heav'n ar - rests him,
 3. Pray - ing sight - less in the cit - y
 4. Christ, our Lord, the earth's vast mil - lions

Toward Da - mas - cus' an - cient wall, Track - ing
 Bril - liant far be - yond the sun. Falls the
 Saul re - ceives the Lord's com-mands From re -
 Still a - wait your love's pur - suit. Christ, whose

those in God's new Is - rael Who have an - swered
 hunts-man, stunned and si - lenced, All his mur - d'rous
 luct - ant A - na - ni - as: "You shall go to
 call still sends a - pos - tles, Claim us each, your

Je - sus' call. But a hunt - er, more re - lent - less,
 plans un - done. Then a voice, in - sis - tent, thun - ders,
 dis - tant lands, Turned by grace in - to the hunts - man
 love's re - cruit. Send us, hunt - ers, pa - tient, seek - ing

Fol - lows hard up - on his trail, Clos - ing in with
 "Saul, O Saul, why do you slay Those whose wak - ened
 Of the Gen - tiles lost in night. You shall pray and
 Your own prey, the lost, the least, Till, made cap - tive,

grace un - swerv-ing, Love's as - sail - ant to as - sail.
 tongues con - fess me, Those whose feet walk in my way?"
 preach and suf - fer Till they see my Gos - pel's light."
 they are gath - ered, Free at last to share love's feast.

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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

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. As we pray, think of one person or place you know who needs that prayer.

A brief silence.

L: Grant humility to your church, O God, that we honor the testimonies of those who seem unlikely witnesses to your work. Remove from us all prejudice, opening us to wisdom that challenges and extends more widely the church's ministry. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Bless the earth and bring forth its increase. Rescue lands from famine and disease. Send aid to places rebuilding after earthquakes and storms. Support the work of scientists, conservationists, and all who seek to preserve the goodness of creation. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Nation rises against nation, O God, even as we pray for your peace. Bring an end to international conflicts and religious persecution. Ensure fair and equitable treatment in courts of law. Give integrity to legislators and those who enforce the law. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Show us the depths of your mercy through the work of caregivers, advocates, and health care workers. Give strength and patience to those who accompany others through times of illness, uncertainty, or pain. Bring your saving health to those in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We thank you for gifts of food, water, and nourishment. Bless farmers and restaurant workers, bakers and grocery store workers, food pantry volunteers and family members who cook daily meals. Encourage us to share food with those who are hungry, that they regain their strength. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We praise you for the saints, especially Paul the Apostle, Bill Knepper, Bob Kidwell and for all believers who have been transformed by your love and power. Lead us by their endurance and example. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

PEACE

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

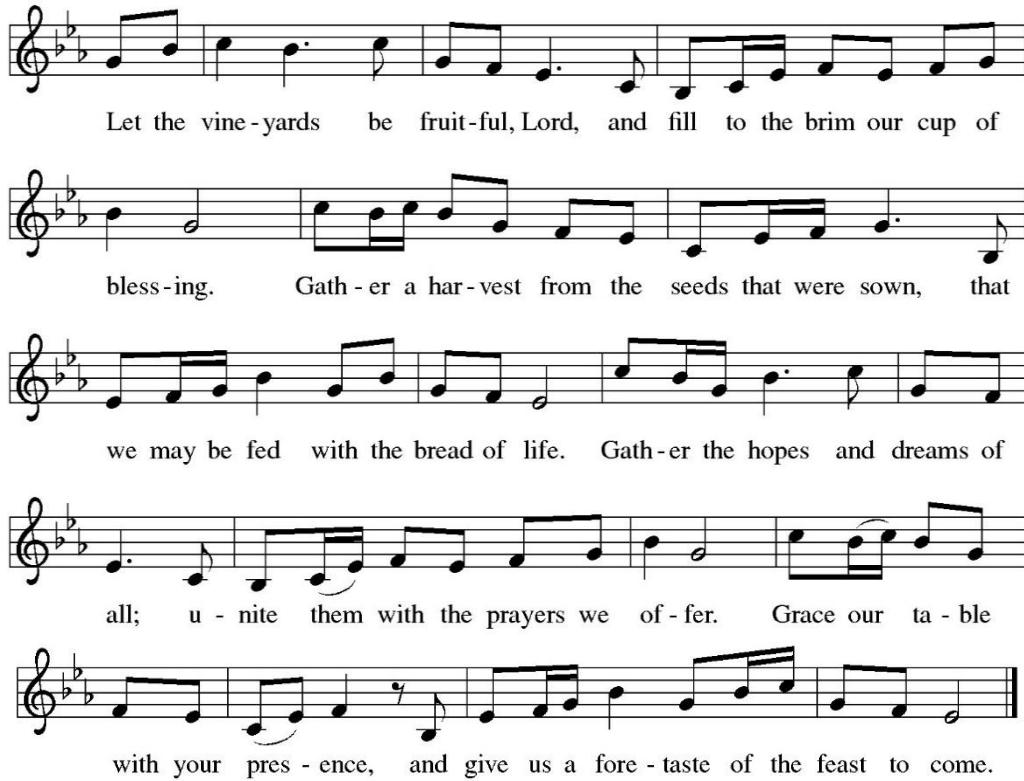
THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

(ELW 184)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

In Heaven Above



1 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, where God our Fa - ther dwells:
 2 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, what glo - ry deep and bright!
 3 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, no tears of pain are shed,
 4 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, God has a joy pre - pared,



how bound-less there the bless-ed-ness! No tongue its great-ness tells.
 The splen-dor of the noon-day sun grows pale be-fore its light.
 for noth-ing there can fade or die; life's full - ness round is spread,
 which mor-tal ear has nev-er heard, nor mor-tal vi-sion shared,



There face to face, and full and free, the ev - er -
 The might - y sun that goes not down, be - fore whose
 and like an o - cean, joy o'er - flows, and with im -
 which nev - er en - tered mor - tal thought, in mor - tal



liv - ing God we see, our God, the Lord of hosts!
 face clouds nev - er frown, is God, the Lord of hosts!
 mor - tal mer - cy glows our God, the Lord of hosts!
 dreams was nev - er sought, O God, the Lord of hosts!

Text: Laurentius L. Laurinus, 1573–1655; tr. William Macall, 1812–1888
 Music: I HIMMELEN, I HIMMELEN, Norwegian folk tune

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call— turning our hearts and opening our eyes anew. For speaking this Word, **A: We thank you, O God.**

P: Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, **A: We worship you, O God.**

P: By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, **A: We praise you, O God.**

P: Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, 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.

SENDING

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, \pm and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

(ELW 543)

1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone."
2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
3. "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me."

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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DISMISSAL

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

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Thursday, January 29

Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12
Psalm 15

Monday, January 26

Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 67 (3)
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 21:10-19

Friday, January 30

Deuteronomy 24:17— 25:4
1 Timothy 5:17-24
Psalm 15

Tuesday, January 27

Judges 7:12-22
Philippians 2:12-18
Psalm 27:7-14

Saturday, January 31

Micah 3:1-4
John 13:31-35
Psalm 15

Wednesday, January 28

Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26
Luke 1:67-79
Psalm 27:7-14

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, January 25th—Annual Congregation Meeting

Wednesday, January 28th—Holden Evening Prayer—6 pm

Wednesday, February 4th—Holden Evening Prayer—6pm

Sunday, February 8th—Hops & Hymns—3:30pm
Wednesday, February 11th—Holden Evening Prayer—6pm
Sunday, February 15th—Fellowship
Wednesday, February 18th—Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 25th—Holden Evening Prayer—6pm



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Art Reede
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
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 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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