



ST PAUL

PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (CANDLEMAS)

FEBRUARY 1, 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

Today we celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord, when Simeon joyfully confesses that Jesus is God's "light for all people." We gather because we need that light: mercy and hope we cannot make for ourselves. This day, sometimes called Candlemas, recalls an ancient tradition of praying for God blessing on the year's candles during the day's mass. In word and meal, Christ is revealed among us, and we are sent to share his light.

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.*

***CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the \ddagger 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: Most merciful God, **A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have rejected your discipline. We have avoided your pruning of our cluttered lives. We have failed to maintain the tools of stewardship, outreach, and witness you have provided for the nurture of your church. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, train us, and redirect us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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 \ddagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

(ELW 417)

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825-1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

*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

Cantor

We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow - shares of our swords, make



plow - shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly



Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have

Cantor



Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -



til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly



Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have



mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor



De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and



root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly

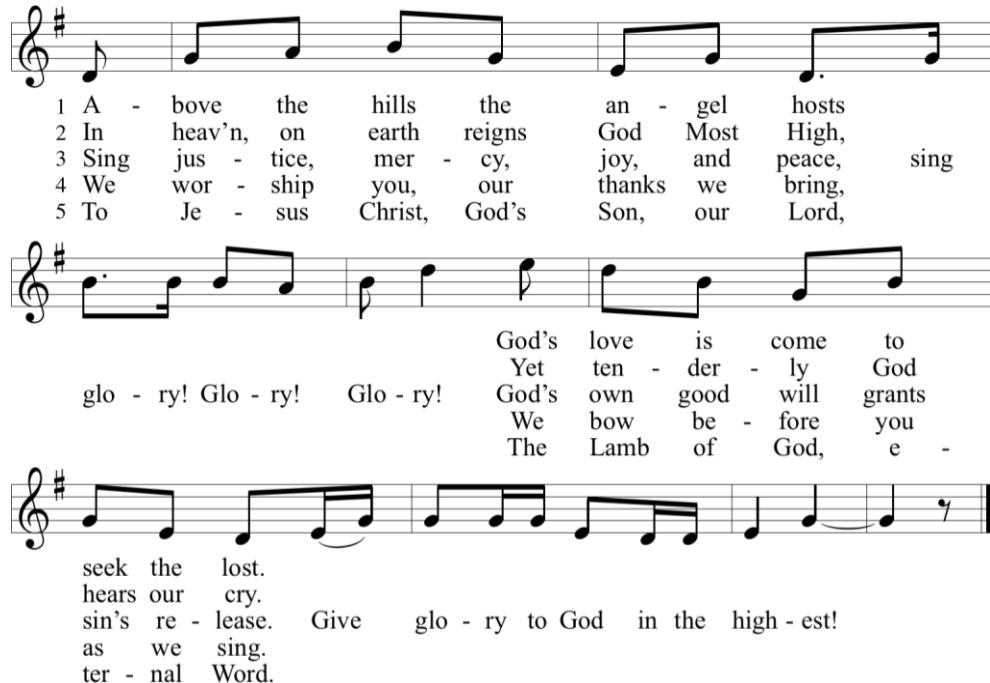


Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have



mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts
2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,
3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing
4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,
5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to God
Yet ten - der - ly grants God's own good will you
We bow be - fore you The Lamb of God, e -
seek the lost.
hears our cry.
sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!
as we sing.
ter - nal Word.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis

Music: THE DEVIL'S NINE QUESTIONS, Appalachian traditional

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, 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: MALACHI 3:1-4

Malachi (which means "my messenger") was written soon after the Temple was rebuilt and worship beginning in Jerusalem again after the exile in Babylon. "Refiner's fire" was hot enough to melt metal and separate it from its impurities; "fuller's soap" bleached cloth. The "sons of Levi" were the hereditary priesthood of Israel, empowered to offer sacrifices in the temple.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM: 84

(sung to the tune *Ellecombe*. ELW 722)

This love song to the Temple was probably sung as people journeyed to Jerusalem for the festivals or (like Mary and Joseph) to offer sacrifice at the birth of a new child.



1. How love-ly is Your dwell-ing place, Al - migh - ty God and Lord!
2. The spa - row ev - en found a home, the swa - low found a nest,
3. How bless'dare those who find their strength in You their God and King;
4. They go from strength to strength un - til be - fore God they ap - pear;
5. Much be - ter is a day with - in Your courts where You a - bide
6. The Lord is both a sun and shield, and fa - vor He be - stows,



1. For my soul yearns and ev - en faints to be with - in Your courts!
2. Where she may have her young near You, and at Your al - tar rest.
3. Who set their hearts on pil - grim-age, and in Your pres-ence sing.
4. O lis - ten, God of Ja - cob and O Lord Al-migh - ty hear!
5. than thou-sands where the wick - ed dwell, who are not on Your side.
6. And no good thing does He with-hold from those whose way He knows--



1. My heart and flesh cry out in me, for God, the liv - ing God
2. O Lord Al-migh - ty, King and God, how bless-ed are those who
3. Through vall - eys filled with tears they pass, make it a place of springs,
4. Now look with fa - vor on the face of Your an -oint-ed one;
5. For I would ra - ther be a - slave, a - keeper of the door,
6. From those who walk in right - ous - ness, in up-rightways and true.



1. Your pres - ence is where I would be; I long for You, my God!
2. dwell in your house where they may be for - ev - er praise-ing You.
3. The aut - umn rains do cov - er it with pools which the rain brings.
4. O look with fa - vor on the face of Your an -oint-ed one.
5. Than live with those in wick - ed tents who do the Lord ig - nore.
6. O Lord Al - migh - ty, bless'dare those who put their trust in You.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18

A familiar theme of the beginning of Luke's Gospel is that Jesus went through everything that a human baby – indeed, that a Jewish boy – did: conception, birth, circumcision, and presentation.

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1 O God, whose word well-plant-ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:22-40

Tradition was that mothers and their newborns were ritually unclean because of their contact with blood, and needed to be purified at the Temple, usually 40 days after the birth. Further, first born sons belonged to God, and needed to be "bought back" with a sacrifice at the Temple. The song Simeon sings is one which is sung at Compline, a prayer service immediately before bed, and which was quoted by many at their own deaths. Among Lutherans it is often sung immediately after communing as well.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

(ELW 295)

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'r's, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

*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

L: 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: Night and day, we worship you, O God. Make your church a place of prayer and praise. Reveal yourself to those who long for assurance of your presence, and guide us by your Spirit to show your glory to the nations. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: In you the sparrows find a home and the swallows make a safe nest for their young. Nourish all plants and animals who wait for springtime. Uplift those who rely on the lengthening days for their mental and emotional health. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Refine the nations and purify the hearts of those in authority, that all people have equal opportunity to live in freedom and thrive in joy. Shine peace into places of turmoil, strengthen relationships between nations, and open paths for collaboration and understanding. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Renew those who look to you for strength and give endurance to those facing trials. Satisfy the needs of widows, widowers, and all who grieve. Redeem those who suffer (especially). Prepare salvation for all who seek you. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Equip your people of all ages with gifts to build up your kingdom. Invigorate our community with the wisdom of elders, the joy of children, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the passion of youth. Teach us to learn from one another across generations. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Living God, happy are they who dwell in your house forever. We especially remember Bill Knepper, Bob Kidwell, Stine Walker, Bishop Ansgar, and the Martyrs of Japan. Grant release to those who stand at the threshold between this life and the next. At the last, dismiss us in peace and reveal to us the glory of your salvation. 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.**

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

*OFFERTORY



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea-sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: 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. With gentle hands you prune and shape your people, cutting away that which is dead to you or would keep the warmth of your light from us. You graft us to the True Vine, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, that he may abide in us and we in him. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song:

*SANCTUS (Sung by all)

1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
 2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
 3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and

scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - - iah to the
 flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
 oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts

tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
 flew a - bove. I - sa - - iah heard them call.
 shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, God's
 glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow-er and might.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O Lord, for creation:

when all was formless and void, you sent your Spirit to brood over chaos,
 preparing it for the dawning of light and life.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for your election of Israel:

throughout the ages you have shown your love
 by rescuing and disciplining your people,
 forming them to be your peculiar treasure among the nations.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for the Incarnation of your Son:

for he is the true Vine, through whom you give us, his branches, the life of your grace
 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.

With this bread and cup, then, we remember him:

his birth and baptism; his call of the disciples,

and his training of them by hard words and consolation;

his acceptance of punishment on our behalf, and his sharing of our death;

his glorious resurrection and ascension,

and his promise to be present with us as teacher and host,

so that his joy may be in us and that our joy may be complete.

Send your Spirit upon this meal and all who share it.

As you have united us with your Son, unite us with each other.

Prune what is wayward; heal what is out of joint;

and fit us to pursue peace and holiness.

In your Spirit, through your Son, with your people of every time and place,

we give you thanks and praise,

offering all the fruits of our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength,

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

L: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

A: Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, to the earth you came to;
2 O Lamb of God, to the on - ly Son, to
save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from
on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

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

*COMMUNION HYMN: "We Praise You for the Life That Stirs"

(OLS 9)

1 We praise you for the life that stirs when
2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for
3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for
4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when
5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and

spring - time warms the sleep - ing earth; but
 rip'n - ing grain and length - ened days; but
 har - vest yield from spring - time seed; up -
 earth in fro - zen si - lence lies,
 praise the Spir - it, with the throng for

 most, we praise the grace that lures our
 most, we praise you for the Son whose
 on our hearts your grace be - stow till
 prom - ise of re - turn - ing light,
 saints and an - gels, joined as one for

 slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The presiding minister says a table blessing; the assembly responds:

Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *O Lord of the blossom*

1 O Lord of the blossom, O God of the seed, O gracious pro-
2 O Lord of the harvest, O God of the feast, where sorrows are
vi - der for all hu - man need, you have nour - ished our faith at your van - quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your
ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your or - chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho - rus in praise of your
face. O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the love. Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the
vine, you've fed us your pres - ence in bread and in Son, sing praise to the Spir - it. Praise God, Three in
wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us ar - bor and One! You have made us one peo - ple you've fed by the
plow, and shown us the gos - pel, your word for us now. hand, O Lord of the heav - ens, O God of the land.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our 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: *"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart"*

(ELW 440)



1 In peace and joy I now de - part as God is will - ing,
2 Christ Je - sus makes the way for me, my gra - cious Sav - ior;
3 The Lord is health and sav - ing light for ev - 'ry na - tion,

and faith fills all my mind and heart, calm - ing, still - ing.
with eyes of faith and trust I see God's great fa - vor.
dis - pel - ling shad - ows of the night with sal - va - tion:

God the Lord has prom - ised me that death is but a slum - ber.
When this life comes to an end, my hope is God's em - brac - ing.
Is - rael's praise and hope's de - light, my trea - sure, joy, and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546, based on the *Nunc dimittis*; tr. composite

Music: MITT FRIDU UND FREUD; Martin Luther

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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.....	Eleanor Bird
Musician.....	Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....	Karen Magnuson
Reader.....	Karen Magnuson

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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