



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 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's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty days shape our Lenten pilgrimage—a season once devoted to preparing people for baptism at Easter. Lent calls us back to that same promise. We gather because we are hungry for God's mercy. In word and meal, Christ nourishes us and strengthens us to walk the road ahead.

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.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

P: Please be seated

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

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

P: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and
hope in the world: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to
come forth to life: Gracious God,

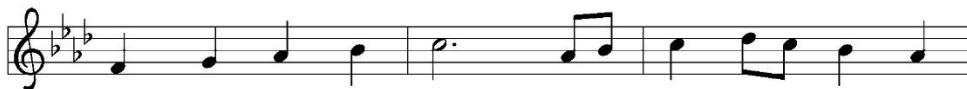
A: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **A: Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"** (ELW 319)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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 a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



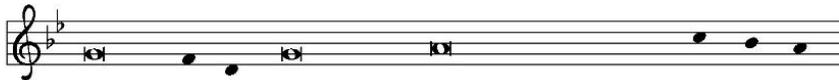
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



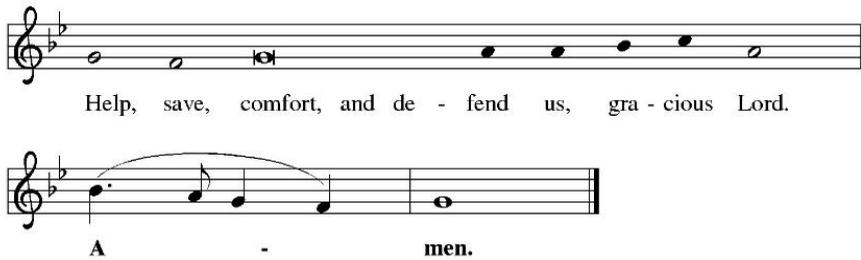
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Genesis 2 provides a different creation story from Genesis 1, In the verses we won't read this morning, God allows Adam to name all the animals (except himself), but finds none that would be a "helper as his partner." Apart from this reference to Eve, the only one referred to in the Old Testament as "helper" is God.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was

good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

PSALM: 32

(chanted to Tone 9)

Singing this psalm immediately after telling how humanity has fallen short of God's hopes right from the beginning celebrates the power and dependability of God's patient forgiveness and forbearance.

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer. R
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the
guilt ¹ of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye. R
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹ in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart. R

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:12-19

Several times in his writings, Paul compares and contrasts Jesus with Adam, Moses, or other figures from the Old Testament. The contrast he draws here supports his affirmation, earlier in chapter 5, that we may have absolute confidence in the renewed relationship with God Christ established for us.

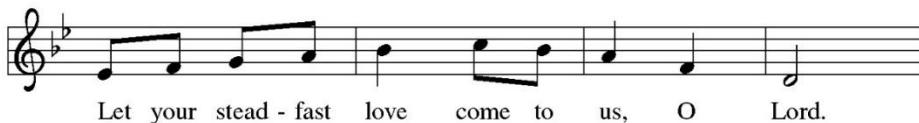
¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 4:1-11**

Both Moses (Ex. 34:28) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8) fasted for forty days before experiencing the presence of God and beginning a new stage of their ministry.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Jesus, tempted in the desert"

Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13
Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

BEACH SPRING
The Sacred Harp, 1844



1. Je - sus, tempt - ed in the des - ert, Lone - ly,
2. Je - sus, tempt - ed at the tem - ple, High a -
3. Je - sus, tempt - ed on the moun - tain By the
4. When we face temp - ta - tion's pow - er, Lone - ly,



hun - gry, filled with dread: "Use your pow'r," the
bove its an - cient wall: "Throw your - self from
lure of vast do - main: "Fall be - fore me!
strug - gling, filled with dread, Christ, who knew the



tempt - er tells him; "Turn these bar - ren rocks to
loft - y tur - ret; An - gels wait to break your
Be my ser - vant! Glo - ry, fame, you're sure to
tempt - er's ho - ur, Come and be our liv - ing



bread!" "Not a - lone by bread," he an - swers, "Can the
fall!" Je - sus shuns such emp - ty mar - vels, Feats that
gain!" Je - sus sees the daz - zling vi - sion, Turns his
bread. By your grace, pro - tect, pre - serve us Lest we



hu - man heart be filled. On - ly by the Word that
fick - le crowds re - quest: "God, whose grace pro - tects, pre -
eyes an - oth - er way: "God a - lone de - serves our
fall, your trust be - tray. Yours, a - bove all oth - er



calls us Is our deep - est hun - ger stilled!"
serves us, We must nev - er vain - ly test."
hom - age! God a - lone will I o - bey!"
voic - es, Be the Word we hear, o - bey.

*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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. As we pray, silently name a person or place in need of that prayer petition.

A brief silence.

L: God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.

(Especially we pray for . . .) Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you especially Marilyn Niemann, Leona Olenik, Anne Harpster, and Anne Kline Corl. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

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

MEAL

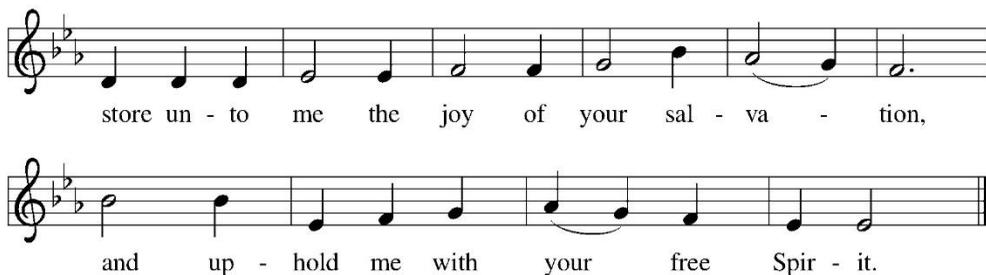
OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

(ELW 188)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



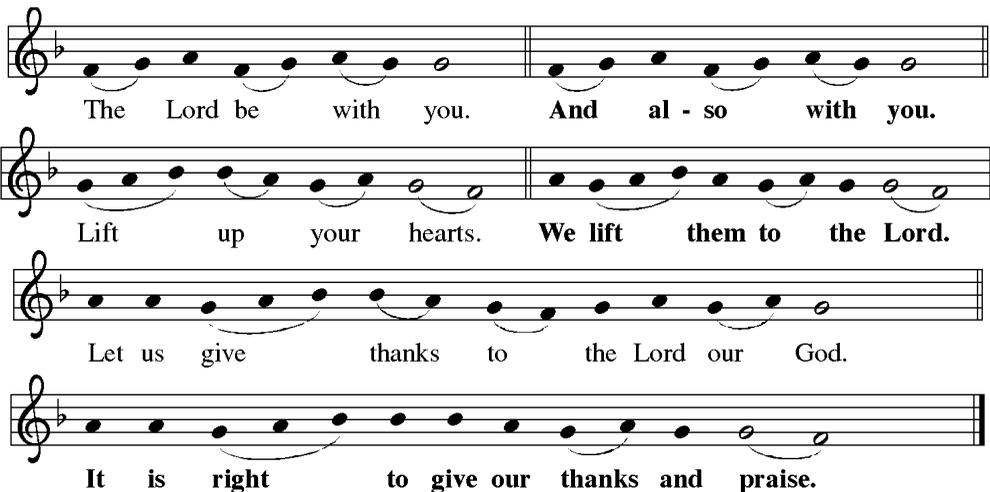
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

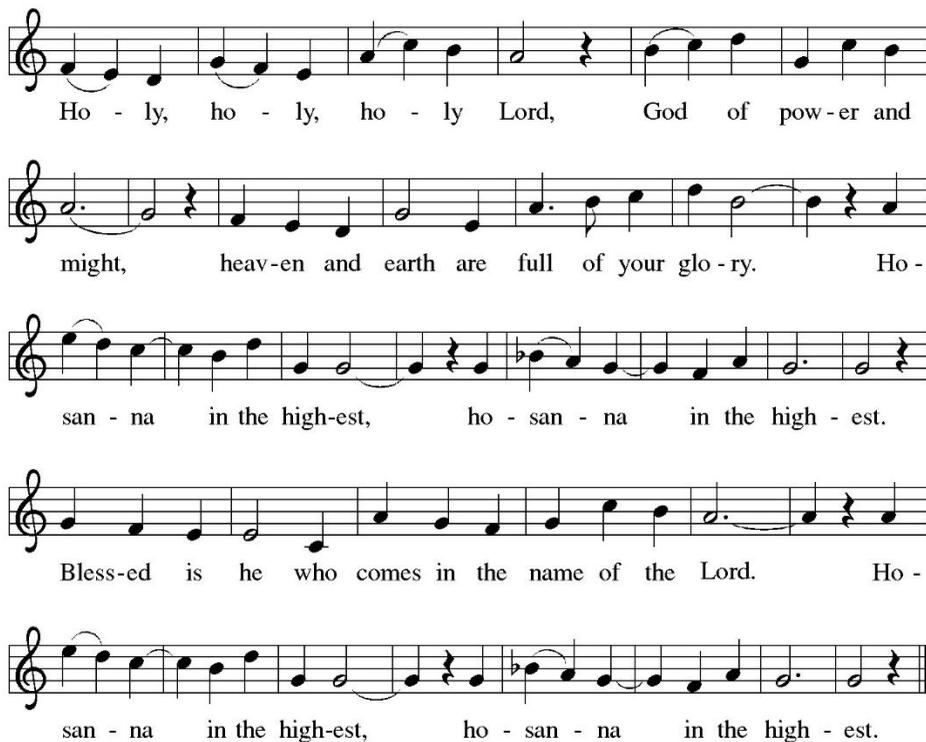


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, 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: Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection,

we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

A: Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food

and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:

wash away our sin,

that we may be revived for our journey by the love of 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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"



1. Je - sus walked _____ this lone-some val - ley;
 2. We must walk _____ this lone-some val - ley;
 3. You must go _____ and stand your tri - al;



he had to walk _____ it by him - self. _____ Oh,
 we have to walk _____ it by our - selves. _____ Oh,
 you have to stand _____ it by your - self. _____ Oh,



no-bod-y else _____ could walk it for him; he had to
 no-bod-y else _____ can walk it for us; we have to
 no-bod-y else _____ can stand it for you; you have to



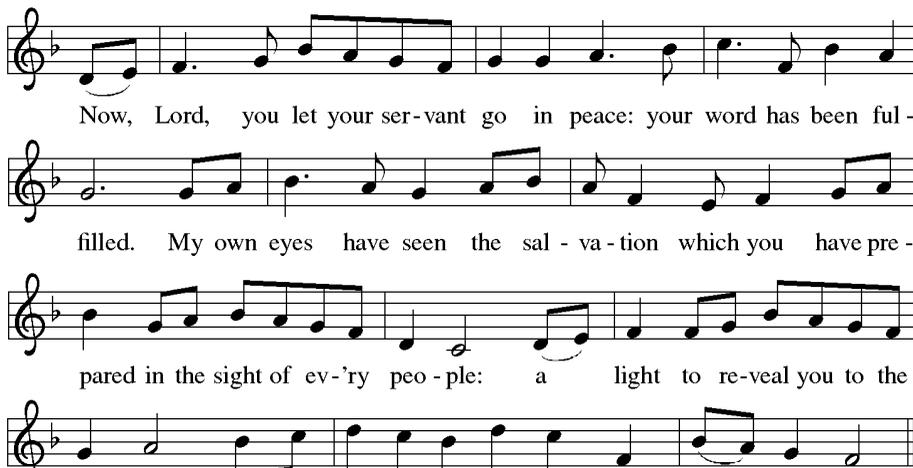
walk it by _____ him - self. _____
 walk it by _____ our - selves. _____
 stand it for _____ your - self. _____

From Hymnary.org (based on a score from the Cyber Hymnal)
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*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-
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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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

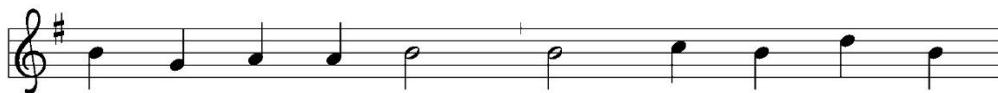
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✚ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "The Glory of These Forty Days"

(ELW 320)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
 Assisting Minister..... Lauren Tingle
 Musician.....Jacob Heller
 Sacristan..... Karen Magnuson
 Reader.....Jeff Muthler

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'— Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Conestoga-Susquehannock people, where we gather. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

Find out more about the Conestoga-Susquehannock at www.conestogasusquehannocktribe.com

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