



# ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD:  
VIGIL OF EASTER**  
APRIL 4, 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](https://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**

*This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

## **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

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.**

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.   **A: Amen.**

P: Christ, yesterday and today, ✚  
the beginning and the ending. A Ω  
To Christ belongs all time 2  
and all the ages; 0  
to Christ belongs glory and dominion 2  
now and forever. 6  
**A: Amen.**

P: The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.



in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them, dry-shod, through the Red Sea.

Leader Assembly

This is the night This is the night

in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and holiness, by the rising brightness.

Leader Assembly

This is the night This is the night

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell!

O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that he will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and faithfully shed light on all the human race. Through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

Leader Assembly

...one God, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

## THE READINGS

### FIRST READING: GENESIS 1:1—2:4A

*Creation*

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

### FIRST RESPONSE – PSALM 136:1-9, 23-26

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever.</b>
<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever.</b>
<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>5</sup> who by wisdom made the heavens,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth upon the waters,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>7</sup> who made the great lights—	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>8</sup> the sun to govern the day,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>9</sup> the moon and the stars to govern the night,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>23</sup> who remembered us in our low estate,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our enemies,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever;</b>
<sup>25</sup> who gives food to all creatures,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever.</b>
<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven,	<b>for God's mercy endures forever.</b>

### FIRST PRAYER

P: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

### SECOND READING: GENESIS 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

*Flood*

## SECOND RESPONSE:



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Silent reflection.*

## SECOND PRAYER

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

## FOURTH READING – EXODUS 14:10-31; 15:20-21

*Deliverance at the Red Sea*

### \*FOURTH RESPONSE – “When Israel Was in Egypt's Land” (WOV 670)



- 1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
- 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
- 3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
- 4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,  
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.  
a fire by night, a shade by day,  
at God's com-mand it did di - vide,



*Refrain*  
Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



5 When they had reached the other shore,  
 let my people go;  
 they sang the song of triumph o'er,  
 let my people go. *Refrain*

6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,  
 let my people go;  
 and let us all in Christ be free,  
 let my people go. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: TUBMAN, African American spiritual

## FOURTH PRAYER

P: O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

## \*FIFTH READING – ISAIAH 55:1-11

*Salvation freely offered to all*

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

# FIFTH RESPONSE: *Surely God Is My Salvation*

(ACS 926)



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,  
2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter,  
3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is  
from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to  
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.  
God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.  
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

*Refrain*



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!

Sing ho-san - na!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody

Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

## FIFTH PRAYER

P: Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

## \*EIGHTH READING – EZEKIEL 37:1-14

*Valley of the dry bones*

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

## EIGHTH RESPONSE – PSALM 143 (Sung to the tune *Restoration* [ELW 397])



1. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and list - en, On your mer - cy, my hope's stayed.
2. For the en - e - my per - sues me, crush - es me down to the ground.
3. I spread out my hands be - fore You, my soul thirsts like a parched land.
4. Show to me the way to walk in; I lift up my soul to You.
5. For Your name's sake, Lord, pre - serve me, In Your care, let my life stay,



1. In Your faith - ful - ness, give an - swer; In Your right - ous - ness, give aid.
2. They make me to dwell in dark - ness. like those dead, who can't be found.
3. An - wer quick - ly, my soul faints, Lord, Hide not, lest I sink in sand.
4. Res - cue me from all my foes, Lord, For I hide my - self in You.
5. In Your right - ous - ness, re - vive me, bring me out of trou - ble's way.



1. Do not bring me in - to judge - ment, none are right - ous in Your sight.
2. So my spi - rit faints with - in me, and my heart's filled with dis - may;
3. Let the mor - ning bring me word of Your un - fail - ing love to me;
4. Teach me how to do Your will, for You a - lone, You are my God;
5. In Your faith - ful lov - ing - kind - nes, sil - ence all my en - em - ies.



1. No one liv - ing is found right - ous when be - fore You in Your light.
2. I re - mem - ber days of old and med - i - tate on all your ways.
3. For I've put my trust in You and lift my soul up un - to Thee.
4. May Your Spi - rit lead me on to lev - el ground that's smooth and broad.
5. And de - stroy those who af - flict me; I'm your ser - vant; hear my plea.

## EIGHTH PRAYER

P: Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

## \*TWELFTH READING – DANIEL 3:1-29

*Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

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

## TWELFTH RESPONSE – SONG OF THE THREE

All you works of the Lord, bless the lord.  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You angels of the Lord, **bless the lord;**  
you heavens, **bless the lord;**  
all you powers of the Lord, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You sun and moon, **bless the lord;**  
you stars of heaven, **bless the lord;**  
you rain and dew, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You winds of God, **bless the lord;**  
you fire and heat, **bless the lord;**  
you winter and summer, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You dews and falling snow, **bless the lord;**  
you frost and cold, **bless the lord;**  
you ice and snow, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You nights and days, **bless the lord;**  
you light and darkness, **bless the lord;**  
you lightnings and clouds, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

Let the earth **bless the lord;**  
you mountains and hills, **bless the lord;**  
all you green things that

grow on the earth, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You wells and springs, **bless the lord;**  
you seas and rivers, **bless the lord;**  
you whales and all that  
swim in the waters, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

All you birds of the air, **bless the lord;**  
all you wild animals  
and cattle, **bless the lord;**  
all you children of mortals, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You people of God, **bless the lord;**  
you priests of the Lord, **bless the lord;**  
you servants of the Lord, **bless the lord.**  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

You spirits and souls of  
the righteous, **bless the lord;**  
you holy and humble  
in heart, **bless the lord;**  
let us bless the Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit.  
**Praise and magnify the Lord forever.**

# TWELFTH PRAYER

P: Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

# LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Leader	Assembly
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

Be gra - cious to us:	<b>Hear us, O God.</b>
De - liv - er your people:	<b>Hear us, O God.</b>

You loved us before the	world was made: <b>Hear us, O God.</b>
You rescued the people	of your promise: <b>Hear us, O God.</b>
You spoke	through your prophets: <b>Hear us, O God.</b>
You gave your only Son for the life	of the world: <b>Hear us, O God.</b>

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:	<b>Great is your love.</b>
and was born of the	vir - gin Mary: <b>Great is your love.</b>
who by his cross and suffering re - deemed the world:	<b>Great is your love.</b>
and has washed us	from our sins: <b>Great is your love.</b>
who on the third day rose	from the dead: <b>Great is your love.</b>
and has given us the	vic - to - ry: <b>Great is your love.</b>
who ascend	- ed on high: <b>Great is your love.</b>
and intercedes for us at the right	hand of God: <b>Great is your love.</b>



For the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Thanks be to God.**  
For the one holy catholic and apos - tol - ic church: **Thanks be to God.**  
For the great cloud of witnesses  
into which we are bap - tized: **Thanks be to God.**



For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Re - bekah: **Thanks be to God.**  
For Gideon and Deborah, Da - vid and Esther: **Thanks be to God.**  
For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremi - ah and Daniel: **Thanks be to God.**  
For Miriam and Rahab, Abi - gail and Ruth: **Thanks be to God.**



For Mary, mother of our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**  
For John, who baptized in the Jordan: **Thanks be to God.**  
For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Ma - ry and Martha: **Thanks be to God.**  
For James and John, Pe - ter and Andrew: **Thanks be to God.**  
For Paul and Apollos, Ste - phen and Phoebe: **Thanks be to God.**



For all holy men and women,  
our mothers and fa - thers in faith: **Thanks be to God.**  
For the noble band of the prophets: **Thanks be to God.**  
For the glorious company of the a - postles: **Thanks be to God.**  
For the white-robed ar - my of martyrs: **Thanks be to God.**  
For cherubim and seraphim,  
Michael and the ho - ly angels: **Thanks be to God.**



Be gra - cious to us: **Hear us, O God.**  
De - liv - er your people: **Hear us, O God.**



Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism: **Hear us, O God.**  
Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross: **Hear us, O God.**  
Clothe us in compas - sion and love: **Hear us, O God.**  
Bring us with all your saints to the riv - er of life: **Hear us, O God.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Text: *Welcome to Christ*, 1997  
 Text and music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING – ROMANS 5:20-21; 6:3-11

<sup>20</sup>For law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.


<sup>6:1</sup>What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

## THIS IS THE FEAST


*Refrain*



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -




lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



## \*GOSPEL READING – JOHN 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to St John the twentieth chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her. R: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

R: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY – *Up From the Grave He Arose*

1. Low in the grave He lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,  
2. Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;  
3. Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;

Wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord!  
Vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord!  
He tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!

### Refrain

Up from the grave He a - rose, With a might - y tri - umph o'er His foes, He a -  
He a - rose! He a - rose!

- rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er, with His saints to reign. He a -

rose! He a-rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

He a-rose! He a-rose!

## THE SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

### THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those who are* here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of *all those who are* cleansed by this water and bring *them* forth as *inheritors* of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*The assembly makes affirmation:*

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

For the church universal, that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may journey together in newness of life, boldly proclaiming the good news of deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of all creation, that the power that brought forth all life may renew the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations and those in authority, that they may be transformed by the love of Christ and work together for the peace and freedom you have promised to all peoples. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who suffer in poverty, pain, or despair, that like your people in Egypt, they may be set free to live abundantly in the promised land of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For this congregation, that we who have passed over from death to life through baptism may, like Mary Magdalene, share the good news of Christ's resurrection in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful departed especially Benedict the African and Paul Anderson, trusting that all who died with Christ live with him forever, sharing fully in Christ's victory over sin, death, and the grave. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

# OFFERTORY – DOXOLOGY

(LBW 157)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures  
here below; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise God, above all heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son,  
and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

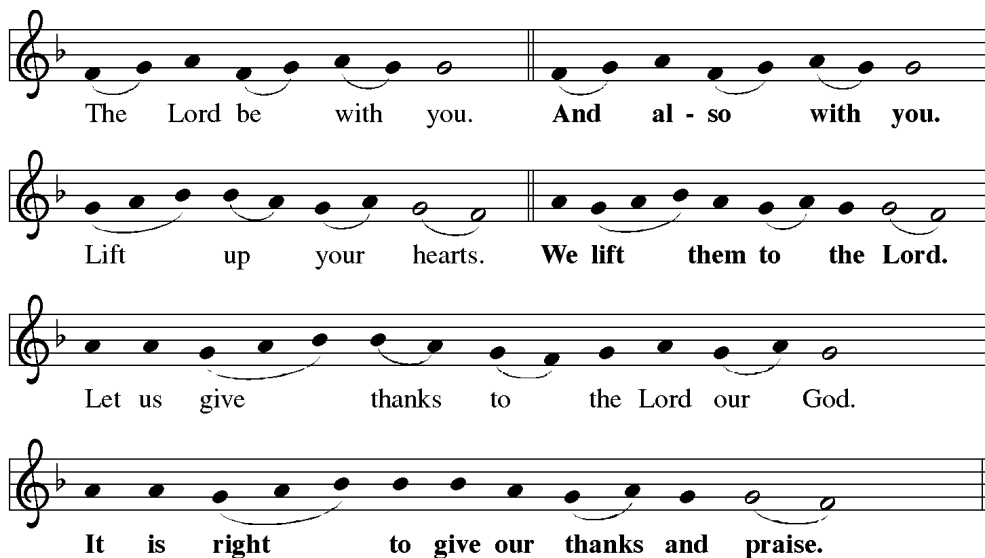
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesange, Köln, 1623

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **A: Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE



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

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

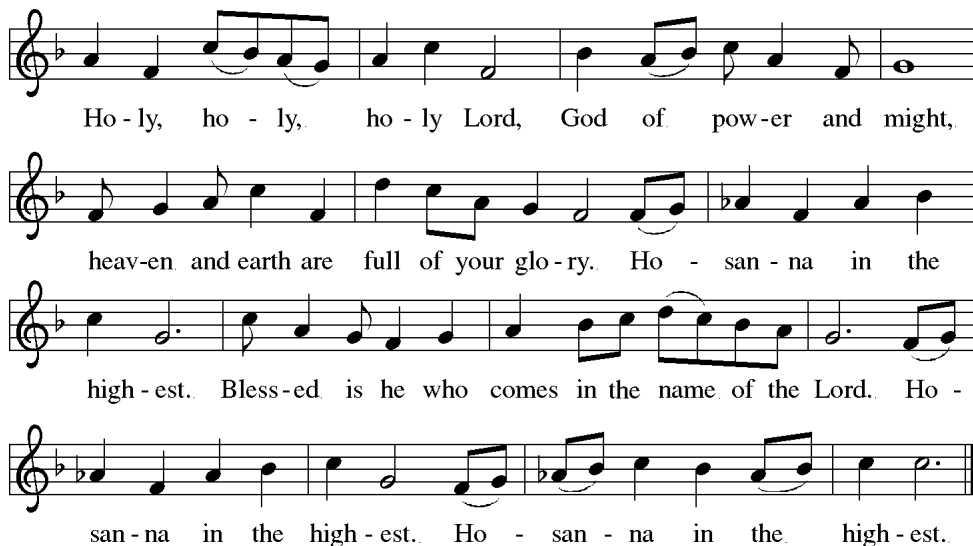
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the

face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honors in yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen. Alleluia!**

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us

**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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## 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. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**A: Amen.**

## \*COMMUNION HYMN – At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

(ELW 362)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
you have conquered in the fight,  
you have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
newborn souls in you to be.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise,  
and your saints in you shall rise.  
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

## \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life.

**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** – *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

L: Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**A: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*You may be seated.*

**\*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

**\*BLESSING**

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 – “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

(ELW 365)



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

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## **\*DISMISSAL**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**



## **SERVING TODAY**

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel  
Assisting Minister.....  
Musician.....Michelle McMullen  
Musician.....Jacob Heller  
Sacristan.....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 Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. 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.

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