



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

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.*

***PASCHAL GREETING**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

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 not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead 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 ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN: "Now the Green Blade Rises"

(ELW 379)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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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.**

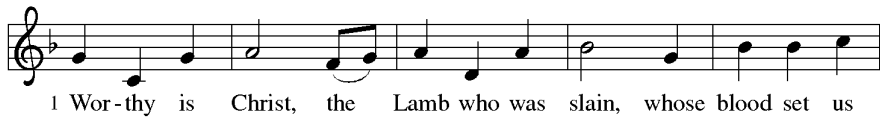
HYMN OF PRAISE



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



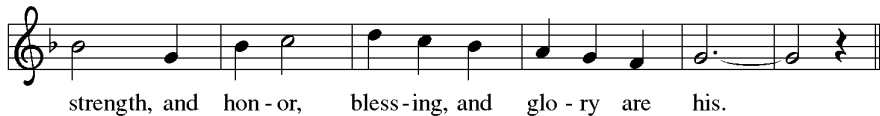
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



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 -

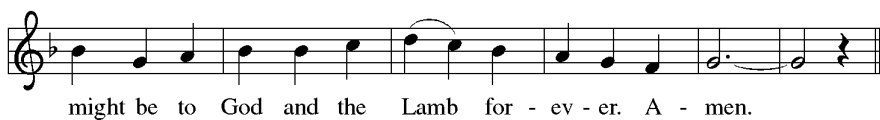


lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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



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.



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray, Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14A, 22-32

During Easter the first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles. For the next several weeks these readings are from Peter's sermon to the crowd on Pentecost, after it had gathered in wonder that they could understand the apostles in their own languages.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

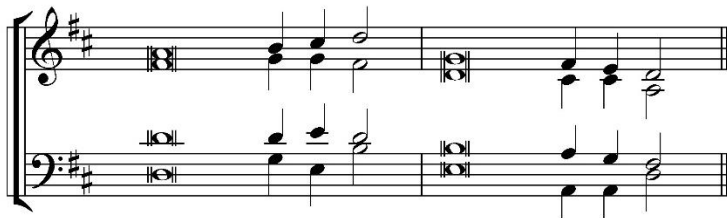
³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

PSALM: 16

In the portion of Peter's sermon at Pentecost we just heard, he quotes this psalm of confidence and thanksgiving.

tone: DUKE STREET



- ¹Protect me O God, ... for I take [refuge] in you;
I have said to the LORD, ... "You are my Lord, ...
my good a-[bove] all other."
- ²All my delight is in the godly that are [in] the land,
upon those who are noble a-[mong] the people.
- ³But those who run after [o]-ther gods
shall have their [trou]-bles multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink off' rings [to] such gods,
never take their names up-[on] my lips.
- ⁵O LORD, ... you are my portion [and] my cup;
it is you who up-[hold] my lot.
- ⁶My boundaries enclose a [pleas]-ant land;
indeed I have a [rich] inheritance.
- ⁷I will bless the LORD who [gives] me counsel;
my heart teaches me [night af]-ter night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD [always] before me;
because God is at my right hand, ... I shall [not] be shaken.
- ⁹My heart therefore is glad, ... and my [spirit] rejoices;
my body also shall [rest] in hope.
- ¹⁰For you will not abandon me [to] the grave,
nor let your holy one [see] the pit.
- ¹¹You will show me the [path] of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, ...
and in your right hand are pleasures for-[ev]-ermore.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

Throughout Easter the second reading will be from 1 Peter, a sermon given to the newly baptized.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Blessed are those who have not seen

Repeat alleluias

and yet have come to be - lieve.

*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 20:19-31

Every year this is the Gospel read on the Second Sunday of Easter. It begins after Mary Magdalene has told the disciples that the resurrected Jesus had appeared to her and sent her with a message of comfort to them.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twentieth chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!!" (ELW 385)



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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***INVITATION TO BAPTISM**

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

L: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,
A: receive our prayer.

L: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,
A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. We especially remember Paul Anderson, Joelle Ferguson, and Marilyn Niemann. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

* OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all bles-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise God, a - bove 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.

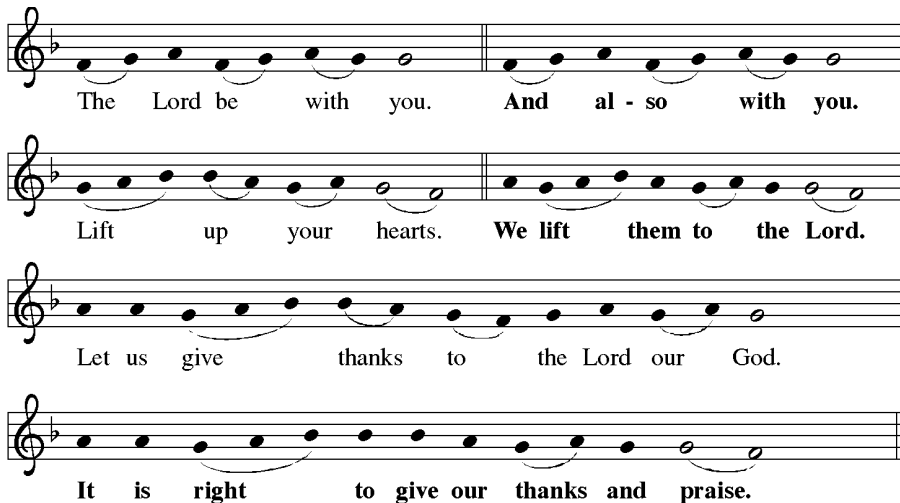
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesange, Koln, 1623

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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

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**

P: Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
 for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
 and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus
 who, living among us,
 healed the sick,
 fed the hungry,
 and with a love stronger than death,
 gave his life for others.

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.

Through our remembrance we proclaim the mystery of our faith

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

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,

that we may live as your chosen ones,

clothed in the righteousness 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. 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**

P: 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 – “Day of Arising”

(OBS 54)

1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,
 un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
 blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
 This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
 bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
 yet Christ walks with us ev - er a - wait - ing
 when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
 Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
 our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
 there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
 that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic melody

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*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. **A: Amen**

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



Thank-ful hearts and voi-ces 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. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

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: "Thine Is the Glory"

(ELW 376)



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

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.....Morgen Hummel
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Nate Clinert

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the 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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