



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 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

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." The gospel gives us Jesus as the gate — the one through whom we enter into life that is truly life, life in abundance. We live in a world full of voices competing for our trust, each promising to lead us somewhere worth going. But not every gate opens onto abundant life. We gather because the risen Christ has opened the way — not for the few, but for all.

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: "Welcome, Happy Morning!!"

(LBW 153)



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished, heav'n is won to - day!"
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
all that once had fall - en raise to life a - gain;



Christ, once dead, is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
you, the true and on - ly Son of God a - bove,
Come then, true and faith - ful; come, ful - fill your word;
show your face in bright - ness, shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
died as mor - tal man to save us by your love.
this is your third morn - ing: rise, O bur - ied Lord!
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, adapt.
Music: FORTUNATUS, Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

*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.



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.
 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, O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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 through the proclaimed Word.

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

In response to Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, 3000 people were baptized and formed a new community of believers in Jerusalem.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM: "My Good Shepherd Is the Lord"

(ASG 23)

The image of the monarch as a shepherd was a common one, both for Israel and for its neighbors. This most popular of psalms has traditionally been attributed to David, who was an actual shepherd as a boy and a metaphorical one as king.

Refrain



My good shep - herd is the Lord, lead - ing me be -
side still wa - ters, giv - ing me all that I may need,



hope re - stor - ing to my soul. hope re - stor - ing to my soul.

Leader



1 Green the mead-ow be - neath me; sure the path for my feet;
2 God is set - ting my ta - ble in my en - c-my's sight;

All



I will fol - low my shep - herd. Rest me in your peace.
my cup is o - ver - flow - ing. Lord, a - noint my night.

Leader



E - ven when I am walk - ing through the val - ley of death,
Show - er good - ness and mer - cy; God of all my days, come.

All *Refrain*



I will fear noth - ing e - vil. Guide me, rod and staff.
I will ev - er be with you: make your house my home.

Text: Susanne Bägenfelt; English version Rusty Edwards; based on Psalm 23
Music: MY GOOD SHEPHERD, Susanne Bägenfelt

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SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-23

Throughout Easter the second reading will be from 1 Peter, a sermon given to the newly baptized. This week's reading includes a passage Luther quoted in his Small Catechism's explanation of the second article of the creed, using the image of our salvation as the payment of a ransom.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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!

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

Repeat alleluias

I know my own and my own know me.

***GOSPEL READING: JOHN 10:1-10**

For a thousand years, the Gospel reading for this Sunday has been from John 10. While usually this reading includes Jesus describing himself as the Good Shepherd, this year we hear a different image from shepherding to describe his ministry.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd!!!"** (ACS 954)



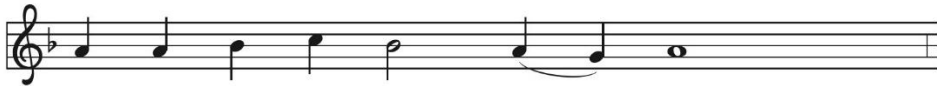
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



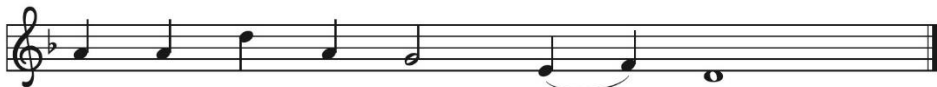
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide,
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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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. As we pray, think of people and places in need of prayer

A brief silence.

L: **Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.****

L: Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. We especially remember Paul Anderson, Joelle Ferguson, and Ruby Newman. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. 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 blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
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, Köln, 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

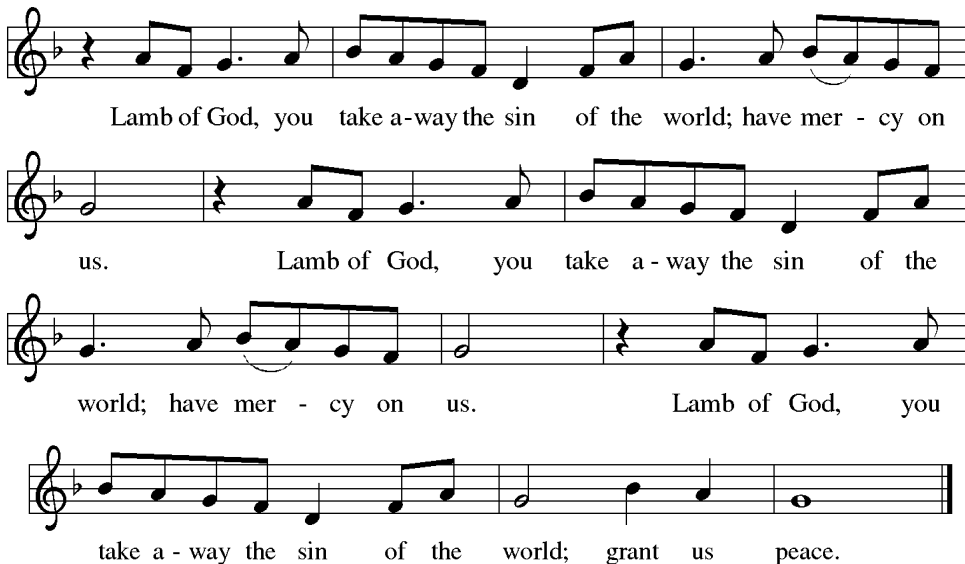
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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 – “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

(ELW 789)



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*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 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. 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: "With God as Our Friend"

(LBW 371)



1 With God as our friend, with his Spir - it and Word,
2 In per - il - ous days, filled with storms and with fright,
3 O Shep - herd, a - bide with us, care for us still,



all shar - ing to - geth - er the feast of the Lord,
a band march - es on through thick gloom toward the light.
and lead us and guide us and teach us your will,



we face with as - sur - ance the dawn of each day
Not man - y, nor might - y, dis - owned by the world,
un - til in your heav - en - ly fold we shall sing



and fol - low the shep - herd; and fol - low the shep - herd,
they fol - low their lead - er; they fol - low their lead - er,
our thanks and our prais - es; our thanks and our prais - es,



whose voice we have heard and whose will we o - bey.
in con - fi - dent faith, with their ban - ners un - furled.
to God and the Lamb, our re - deem - er and king.

Text: Carl O. Roscnus, 1816–1868; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: ACK, SALIGA STUNDER, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

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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.....Art Reede
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Ann Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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