

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Elise Osman
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Tingle
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the 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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ROGATION SUNDAY & SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 10, 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.

SENDING

BLESSING OF MOTHERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS *You may be seated.*

*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 –*For the Fruit of All Creation*

(ELW 679)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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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!

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



1. O— Lord of the blos-som, O God of the seed, O gra - cious pro -
2. O— Lord of the har - vest, O God of the feast, Where sor - rows are



vi - der for all hu-man need, You have nour-ished our faith at your
van-quished and joys are in - creased, Where the tree of life grows in your



ta - ble of grace, And nur - tured new life in the light of your face.
or-chards a - bove, We'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your love.



O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the vine, You've fed us your
Sing praise to the Fa - ther, Sing praise to the Son, Sing praise to the



pres-ence in bread and in wine. In com-mun - ion you've blest to us
Spir - it. Praise God, Three in One! You have made us one peo - ple you've



ar - bor and plow, And shown us the Gos - pel, your Word for us now.
fed by the hand, O Lord of the heav-ens, O God of the land.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

What does it mean not to be alone; really? Not just surrounded by people, but accompanied, held, known? Jesus promises his disciples something that can't be taken away: the Spirit of truth, dwelling within them. Not a feeling. Not a memory. A presence. We gather today because we need that presence. And because the risen Christ, true to his promise, gives it still through Word and Sacrament and one another.

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 confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **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 denied our need for daily new birth. We have scorned the means you provide to fertilize and cultivate our growth in grace. We have closed ourselves to pollination by others of your redeeming, particularly those whose fruits differ from ours. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, revive us, and open us to your gifts, 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** – *God, Whose Farm is all Creation* (ELW 734)



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -
 2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of
 3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,
 sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ing, wait - ing,
 dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.
 rip - ened in this fruit and grain.
 take, O God: they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, 1914-1991
 Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954
 Text © Trustees of the late John Arlott, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

***KYRIE**



A: We__ pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our



swords, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on__ us, have



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on__ us, hear us when we cry to you.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

A: Amen.

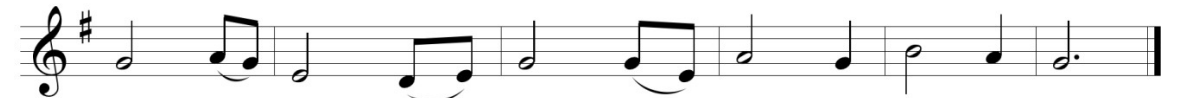
***COMMUNION HYMN**



1. We__ praise you for the life that__ stirs When spring - time
 2. We__ praise you for the sum - mer sun, For rip'n - ing
 3. We__ sing your praise for au - tumn's glow. For har - vest
 4. We__ sing your praise through win - ter's night When earth in__
 5. We__ praise the__ Fa - ther, praise the__ Son, And praise the



warms the sleep - ing earth; But most, we__ praise the__
 grain and length - ened days; But most, we__ praise you
 yield from spring - time seed; Up - on our hearts your
 fro - zen si - lence lies, For pro - mise of__ re -
 Spir - it, with the thron Of saints and an - gels,



Grace that lures Our__ slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 for the Son Whose Light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 grace be - stow Till__ faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 turn - ing light. For__ life in__ Christ that nev - er dies.
 joined as__ one In__ grate - ful, __ ev - er - last - ing song.

***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.

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God,
with your Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

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

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

LAMB OF GOD

1. O Lamb of God, _____ to earth you came _____ To
2. O Lamb of God, _____ the on - ly Son, _____ To

save us all _____ from grief and shame. — Shorn of your life, — up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. — You save the world — from

on the tree _____ You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty. _____
all its sin. _____ Lord, give to us your peace. A - men. _____

A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your
face, hear us when we cry to you. C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have
mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.
A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in — your word, and root it in — your
word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have
mer-cy on — us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear our cry. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE *sung by all*

1. O sing of God's great vic - to - ry! Je - sus' blood has set us free!
2. This is the feast of vic - to - ry Of the glo - rious Lamb a - bove.
3. O is it not a mys - ter - y That our Lord a Lamb should be,
4. All hon - or, bless - ing, glo - ry, might Sing the hosts to Christ on high,

Let all his crea - tures join our songs, For to Christ the throne be - longs
Now all God's peo - ple gath - er 'round For the ban - quet of God's love.
Who on the cru - el cross was slain, But a - rose in heav'n to reign.
All pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom strength. Now let all on earth re - ply:

Refrain (sung by all)
Sing we al - le - lu - ia, prais - es to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING – ACTS 17:22-31

During the season of Easter, our first readings are from Acts rather than the Old Testament. Today's reading finds Paul in Athens, the intellectual center of the Mediterranean world. After debating with philosophers, he is brought to the Areopagus, an ancient site of trials and judgments, and is asked to explain his proclamation of Jesus and the resurrection, which his audience calls "foreign divinities."

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

R: The word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God.

At the springtime of the world, you planted light and life;
you made Israel to be your vineyard,
guarding and training it
through wandering and exile, prosperity and faithfulness,
to bear your Word for the nations.
After prophets and poets had proclaimed that Word,
you chose a flower of the garden to bear it as her fruit;
you made your Word to be enfleshed as Jesus, your Son,
who brought life to a weary world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

We remember, therefore,
his prodigal planting of your Word by his teaching,
his abundant giving of your food and health by his miracles,
his gracious offering of your forgiveness by his welcome.
We proclaim the passage of his last Passover,
when for our sake he passed through death into life,
and sealed with the Spirit our own place as his companions.

Send that Spirit upon this meal,
that again we may pass through death into eternal life.
By your Spirit, unite us with all whom you have called into your light,
and strengthen us for service in the light of your love, as the body of your Son,

*OFFERING PRAYER

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

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

A: It is right to give 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the Son you sent us the Living Bread from heaven. By the Spirit you plant your Word among us, filling the world with the promise of new life in your holy name. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.

SANCTUS (sung by all)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
3. O what a sight it was to see and O what a sound to hear. The



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



Refrain (sung by all)
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's

PSALM 66:8-20

This psalm echoes Paul's situation -- not only his escape from persecution, but his dedication to proclaiming that God's rule and love are universal.

tone: DUKE STREET



⁸Bless our [God] you peoples;

let the sound of [praise] be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us a-[mong] the living

and has not allowed our [feet] to slip.

¹⁰For you O [God] have tested us;

you have tried us just as [silver] is tried.

¹¹You brought us [into] the net;

you laid heavy burdens up-[on] our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; ... we went through [fire] and water,
but you brought us out into a [place of] refreshment. *Antiphon*

¹³I will enter your [house with] burnt offerings

and will [pay you] my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised [with] my lips

and spoke with my mouth when [I was] in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the [smoke] of rams;

I will give you [oxen] and goats. *Antiphon*

¹⁶Come and listen, ... all [you who] believe,

and I will tell you what [God] has done for me.

¹⁷I called out to [God with] my mouth,

and praised the [Lord with] my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil [in] my heart,

the Lord would [not] have heard me;

¹⁹but in [truth God] has heard me

and has attended to the [sound of] my prayer.

²⁰Bless'd be God, ... who has not re-[jected] my prayer,

nor withheld un-[fail]-ing love from me. *Antiphon*

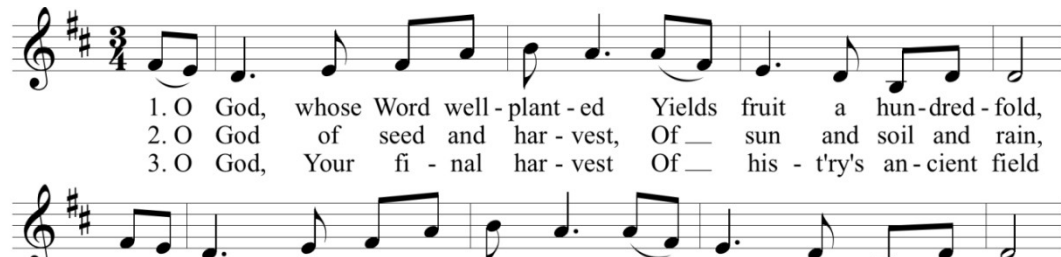
SECOND READING – 1 PETER 3:13-22

Throughout Easter the second reading is from 1 Peter, a sermon given to the newly baptized. Throughout the book the author warns his listeners that baptism is not an end to suffering or opposition, but the beginning of a life of witness in word and deed, which will not always be appreciated. Today's reading includes reference to the ideas that the creeds summarize as "descended to the dead" and "seated at the right hand of the Father."

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

*GRADUAL HYMN



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

We praise your grac-es grant-ed To those who sowed of old,
At-tend the Word we sow lest Its plant-ing be in vain.
Will test with Truth the proud-est That hu-man work can yield.

L: You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill (*especially*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation especially Ted Kemmerer. 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



1. Ac-cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring To place up-on your ta-ble.
2. The vines were plant-ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be-fore you.

We do not wor-ship as we ought But on-ly as we're a-ble.
What once was com-mon, dai-ly food Be-comes a ho-ly trea-sure.
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum-bly we a-dore you.

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.

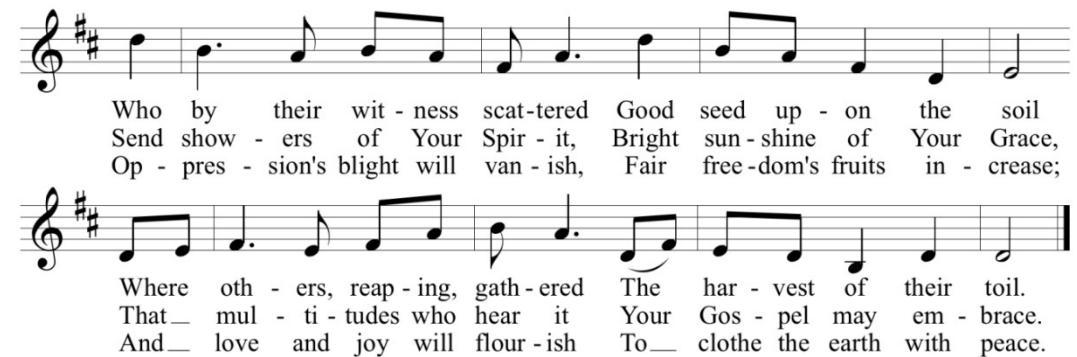
*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: 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: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with
you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's
righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals,
provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the
environment. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**



Who by their wit-ness scat-tered Good seed up-on the soil
Send show-ers of Your Spir-it, Bright sun-shine of Your Grace,
Op-pres-sion's blight will van-ish, Fair free-dom's fruits in-crease;
Where oth-ers, reap-ing, gath-ered The har-vest of their toil.
That mul-ti-tudes who hear it Your Gos-pel may em-brace.
And love and joy will flour-ish To clothe the earth with peace.

*GOSPEL READING – JOHN 14:15-21

This Sunday's Gospel immediately follows last Sunday's; the scene is still Jesus' final chance to teach and console his disciples before he is handed over to be crucified. In the preceding verses, Jesus has told them about how closely related, indeed interconnected he and the Father are. Now he carries that affirmation even further.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We plow the fields and scatter*

(ELW 681)



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*ROGATION BLESSING

Prayer for Seeds (*seed held aloft*)

P: Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Prayer for the Soil (*soil held aloft*)

P: Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord,

A: Amen.

Prayer for Water and Rain (*water held aloft*)

P: Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful.

A: Amen.

P: Most gracious God, according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and clouds drop gentle moisture. We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for the fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of the crops, and for all other blessings that you in your generosity pour out on all people. Bless the endeavors of farmers, of the farmer's market, and of our congregation as we support it and prepare for its opening day. Nurture all who are involved so that our lives may show respect and care for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

*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,**