



ST PAUL

PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 2026

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

We are happy to have you here!

HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND, SIT, OR SPEAK

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay. You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

HOW TO SING HYMNS IN HARMONY

To save space in printing the bulletin, we usually limit what is printed to the melody. If you'd like to sing in harmony, the hymn numbers are listed in our bulletin so you can open the red books in the pews (called ELWs).

WE ARE AN OPEN COMMUNION CONGREGATION

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US



Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

A NOTE ON COMMUNION WAFERS



To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerance to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain 15ppm gluten or less (The US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results. If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

GATHERING

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

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Isaiah promises that God's house will be a house of prayer for all people, not just some. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is an outsider who refuses to be turned away, and Jesus commends her bold, persistent faith. Who is still standing at the margins of this congregation, asking to be let in? At this table you are strengthened—not to guard the door, but to become a sign of welcome, healing, and justice for whoever is still knocking.

PRELUDE — *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.*

***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.

P Compassionate God, **A: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, 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 “In Christ There Is No East or West” (ELW 650)



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

*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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. A: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

This reading comes from the time soon after the return of the exiles from Babylon. During this exile, while the temple was destroyed, sabbath-keeping had replaced sacrifice as the most important ritual practice. Now the temple has been rebuilt, and both practices are able to continue. Like earlier prophets, however, this prophet urges ethical practice as well as ritual, and reminds Israel of its universal mission.

¹ Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant— ⁷ these I will bring

to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM 67

sung to Webb (LBW 389)

Like the first reading, this psalm proclaims that God's reign of peace extends beyond Israel to all people.

¹ May God be gracious to us, and bless us from above,
Make His face shine upon us, with all His cov'nant love; Selah

² So that Your ways, O God, may be known in all the earth,
And Your salvation known by all peoples of the earth.

³ May all the peoples praise You, O God, may peoples praise;

⁴ May all the nations sing and be glad for all their days.
For You will rule the peoples with justice by Your hand,
And You will guide the nations in each and ev'ry land. Selah

⁵ May all the peoples praise You, may peoples praise and sing.

⁶ The earth will yield its harvest, and will its produce bring.

⁶ And God, our God will bless us; yes, God will blessing send,

⁷ And all the earth will fear Him to its remotest end.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

Until mid-September, we'll be reading most of the book of Romans straight through. In the verses omitted from this morning's reading, Paul reminds the Romans that both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace. He further warns his Gentile readers not to claim priority over Jews, since Gentiles are simply grafted onto the chosen people; Jews remain the original branches.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus preached the good news | of the kingdom*
and cured every sickness a- | mong the people.

*GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 15:10-28

The first part of the this reading is a response to the criticism of the Pharisees and scribes that Jesus allows his disciples to "break the tradition of the elders" by eating without washing their hands. The second part reflects the evangelist's belief that Jesus's earthly ministry was directed solely to Israel, and only with the Great Commission was this barrier broken. But, given faith, not so fast!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He

answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** "Healer of Our Every Ill" (ELW 612)

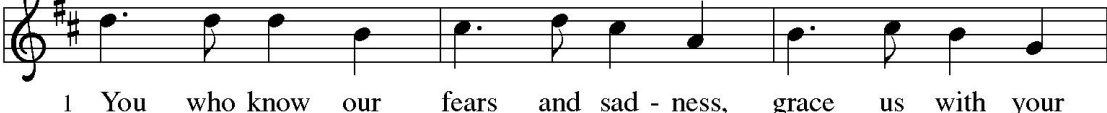
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

HOLY BAPTISM

*PRESENTATION

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: I present Ella Mae Tingle for baptism.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? *Response:* I do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life? *Response:* I do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Ella Mae in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response:* I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Ella Mae and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

A: We do.

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

A: I renounce them.

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

A: I renounce them.

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

A: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**A: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**A: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

BAPTISM

P: Ella Mae, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Ella Mae with 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. **A: Amen.**

P: Ella Mae, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **A: Amen.**

WELCOME

L: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

A: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats (*especially*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love

and strengthen it in unwavering faith. We especially pray for Ella Mae and her new life of faith. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death; and for the riches of faith and hope which came before us in your saints Shirley Gilligan and Gene DeMark we give you thanks. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**

1 Oh, what shall I ren - der in thanks to my Lord;
2 My hands take the cup of sal - va - tion you give;
for all the good gifts by which I am re - stored?
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.
No trea - sure I ten - der could ev - er re - pay
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,
God's mer - cy and faith - ful - ness, new ev - 'ry day.
with all of your peo - ple your good - ness pro - claim.

Text: Martin A. Seltz, based on Ps. 116

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

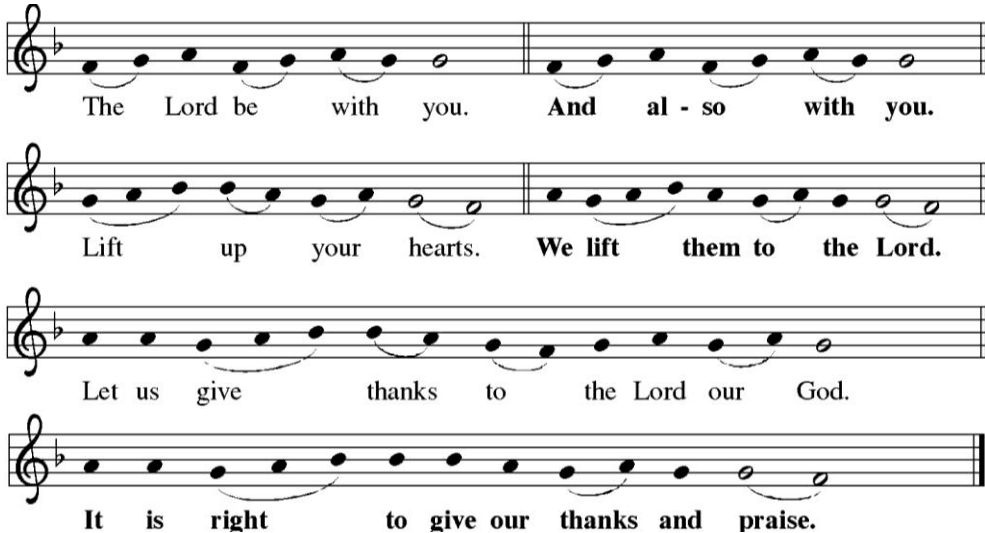
*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

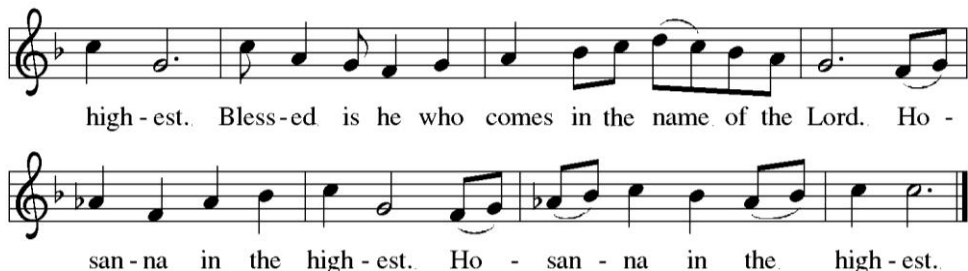
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the world of your creation,
 you wove all things together in life and praise.
 When sin had broke what you had made, you sent your Son to heal our wounds
 and gather us again into one.

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.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing,
 his body given up, and his victory over death,
 we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
 will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

A: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
 as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
 so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
 that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

A: Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church, both now and forever. **A: Amen**

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

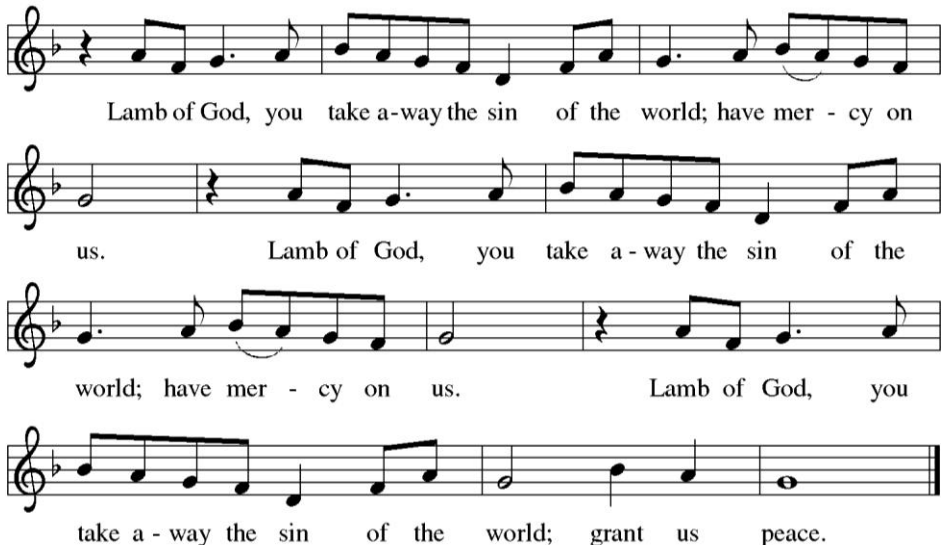
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*LAMB OF GOD



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the". The third staff continues with "world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you". The fourth staff concludes the phrase with "take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." and ends with a double bar line.

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

COMMUNION HYMN: “One Bread, One Body” (ELW 496)

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



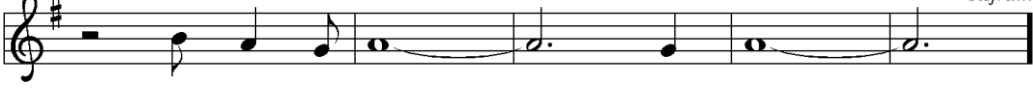
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

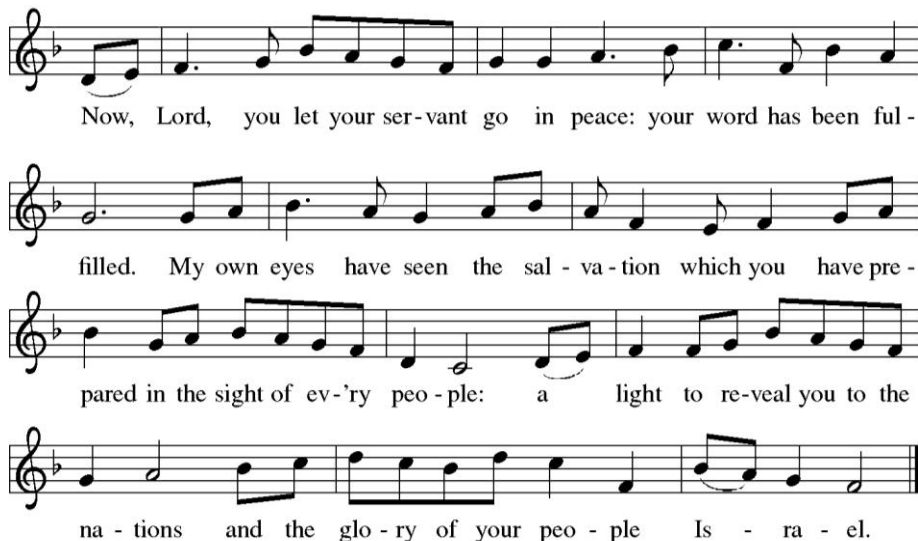
Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ
Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life. **A: Amen.**

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Nunc Dimittis* (Now, Lord)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

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

*SENDING HYMN: "With High Delight Let Us Unite" (ELW 368)



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
van-quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***DISMISSAL**

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

REFLECTIONS FOR AFTER WORSHIP

Overview

We Are Beggars, This Is True

"We are beggars; this is true." These are reported to be Martin Luther's last written words. Christians are "beggars" for God's grace, undeserving but graced nonetheless. A beggar's faith focuses not on what is given or accomplished or believed, but on what is received: the healing and sustenance desperately longed for and needed.

In today's gospel, the Canaanite woman is such a "beggar" for Jesus' healing for her daughter. She is denied a place at the table at first, but she will accept even "crumbs" in the faith that Jesus' healing power and love are intended even for her. As a gentile, she inhabits the margins of Jesus' mission "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). Jesus' eventual response to her beggar's faith reveals that the love of God even encompasses the margins.

Marginalized or not, we are all beggars before God, as Paul reminds the Romans—all "imprisoned . . . in disobedience" (Rom. 11:32) and dependent on God. Thus, our sense of "insider" and "outsider" crumbles in the face of our common need and God's abundant mercy to all. Instead of dividing those who have a place at the table and those who get crumbs, we have an opportunity to share hospitality with our fellow beggars.

It can be challenging to see ourselves as beggars. Today the Canaanite woman becomes our model, as she persists with both humility and audacity. As disciples of Jesus and "beggars" for God's grace, we live the same paradox of humility and audacity, boldly coming to Jesus and humbly acknowledging our need. Even though crumbs from God's table would be enough for us, we are offered instead the abundance of Jesus' own self in bread and wine and invited to share this abundance with insider and outsider alike.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Be faithful in prayer, and in the fulfillment of this duty, you will find all the rest sustained and rendered easy. If you are a sinner, pray: it was through prayer alone that the publican and the sinful woman obtained the grace of a thorough penitence. If you are righteous, still pray: by prayer Job and David persevered to the end. If you live amid sinners, and your duty does not permit you to withdraw yourself from the sight of their irregularities, pray; the three children in the flames, and Jonah in the belly of a monster, found safety only through prayer. If you live in retirement, pray: solitude itself becomes a rock if a continual intercourse with God does not defend us against ourselves. If established in the church for the instruction of the people, pray: all the power and success of your ministry depends upon your prayers. However you are, in prosperity or in indigence, in joy or in affliction, in trouble or in peace, in fervency or in despondency, pray. Prayer is the safety of all stations, the consolation of all sorrows, the duty of all conditions, the soul of piety, the support of faith, the grand foundation of religion.

—Jean Massillon

[Jean Massillon, in *20 Centuries of Great Preaching*, ed. Clyde E. Fant, Jr. and William M. Pinson, Jr. (Waco, TX: Word, 1971), II, 446-447.]

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

AUGUST 17: EUGENE “GENE” DEMARK, † 2022

AUGUST 20: BERNARD, ABBOT OF CLAIRVAUX, † 1153

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
Musicians.....Jacob Heller
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000528. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Hymns reprinted and streamed under OneLicense Annual License, A-726322 for Aug 11, 2025 - Aug 10, 2026. Introductions to the texts are written by the Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg and used with permission. The metrical versions of the psalm has been written by Tim and Julie Tennent in order to provide an open source psalter for public and private worship. Permission is granted to use these metrical settings for public worship with acknowledgement of the source. Permission is not granted for commercial use or financial charge.