ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



All Saints Day
November 1, 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

All Saints belongs to every baptized child of God, living and dead, who together make up the body of Christ. As November strips the landscape bare in this valley, our readings and liturgy turn us toward everyone we've loved and lost in Christ, whose baptism is now complete. At this table, you gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting the promise that every tear will one day be wiped away, and that the story isn't finished yet.

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

*Confession and forgiveness

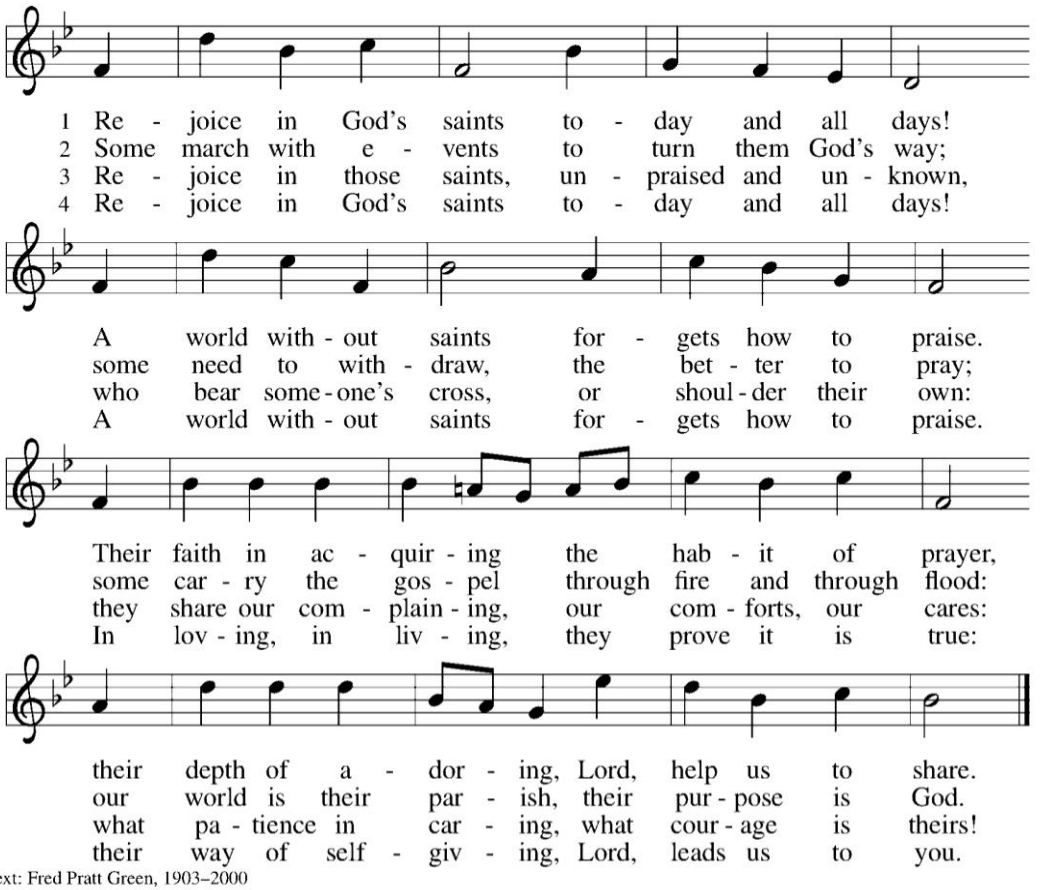
P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

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

P Holy God, **A: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. 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 *"Rejoice in God's Saints" (ELW 418)*



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: LAUDATE DOMINUM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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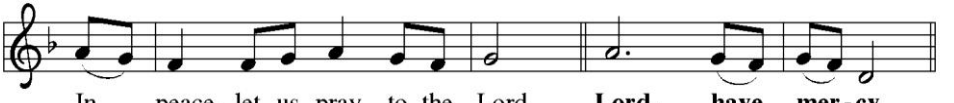
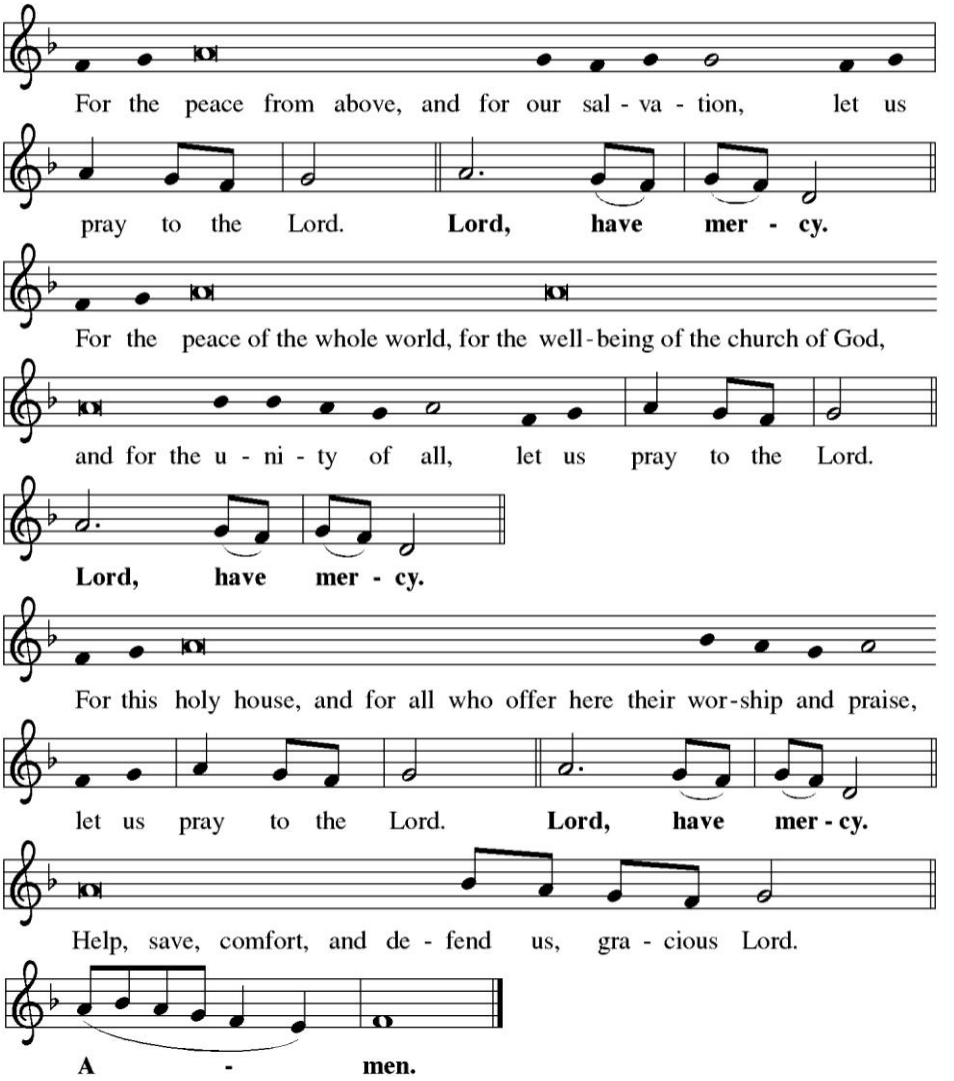
*GREETING

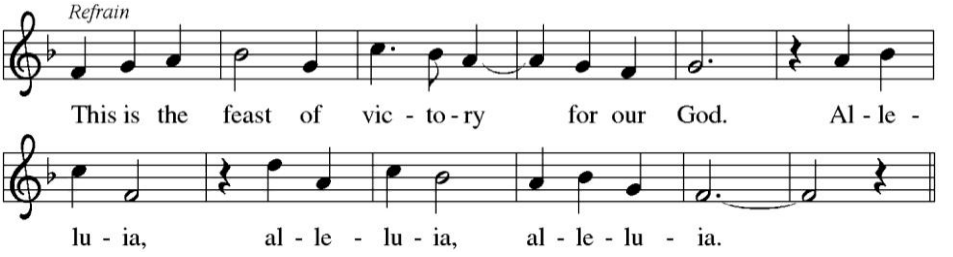
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

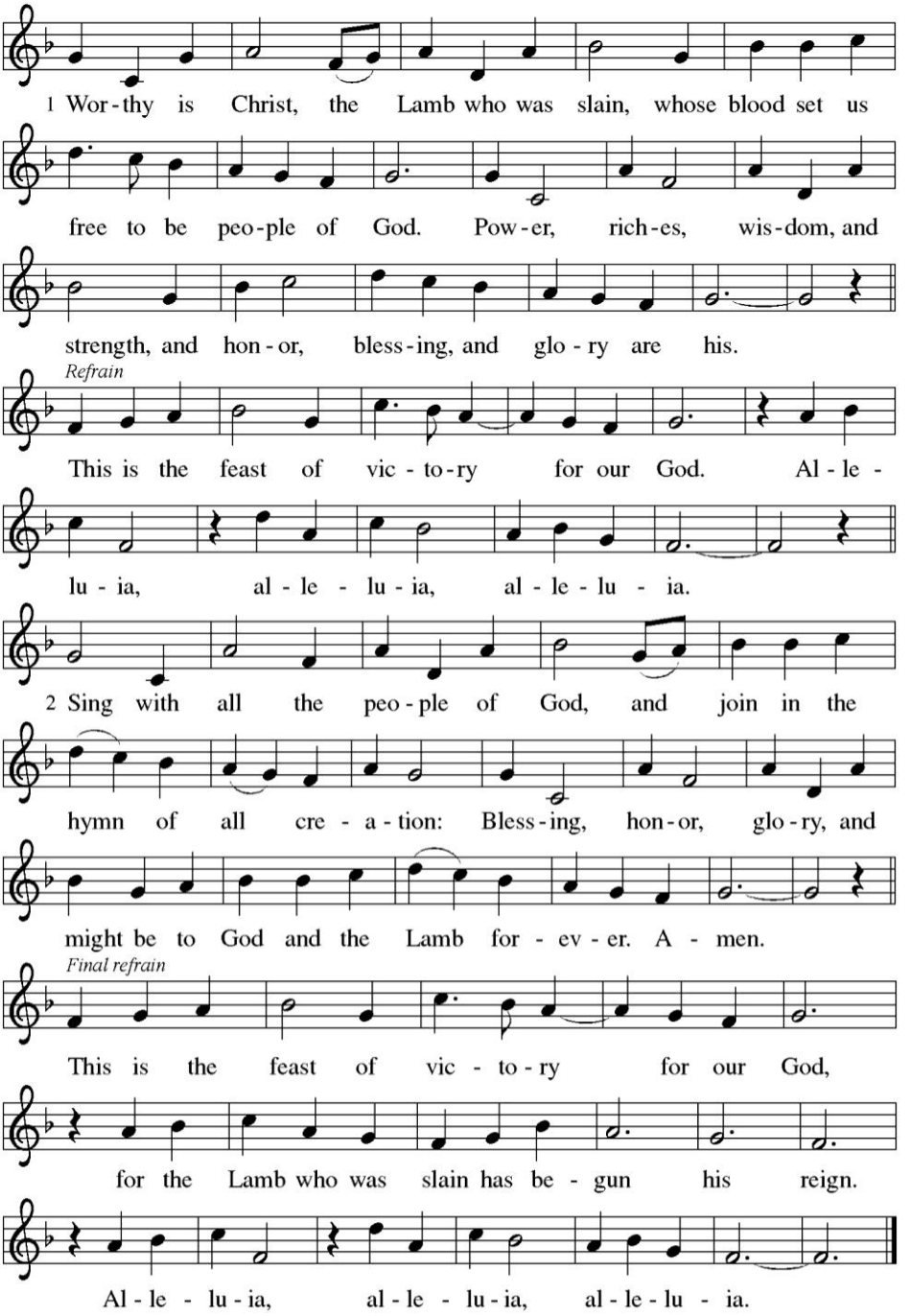
KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
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 God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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: Revelation 7:9-17

While the more terrifying parts of the book of Revelation get most of the attention, the reason for its writing was to provide assurance and hope to Christians facing persecution. Therefore, much of the book is dedicated to providing not only hope for these people, but a promise of a final victory. It is God's church, not the Roman Empire, which is the true universal home of the variety of nations and cultures. And Jesus, whom John the Baptist acclaimed as the Lamb of God, is also the Good Shepherd to the saints.

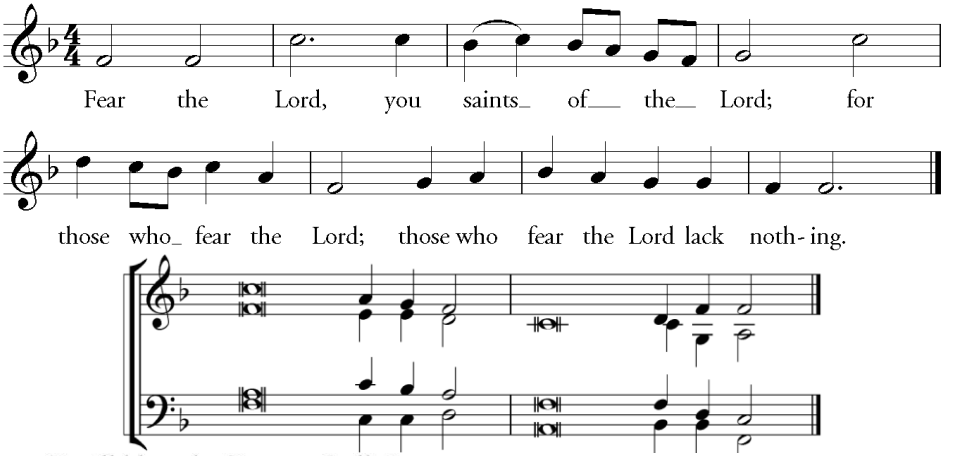
9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in
a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and
where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he
said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed
their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

This psalm is the song of those who, like the audience of Revelation, have persevered in trouble and have received God's consolation.



[1]I will bless the [LORD at] all times;
the praise of God shall ever be [in] my mouth.
[2]I will glory [in] the LORD;
let the lowly [hear and] rejoice.
[3]Proclaim with me the greatness [of] the LORD;
let us exalt God's [name] together.
[4]I sought the [LORD] who answered me
and delivered me from [all] my terrors.
[5]Look upon the [LORD and] be radiant,
and let not your [faces] be ashamed.
[6]I called in my affliction, … and the [LORD] heard me
and saved me from [all] my troubles. *Antiphon*

[7]The angel of the LORD encamps around those who [fear] the LORD
and de-[liv]-ers them.
[8]Taste and see that the [LORD] is good;
happy are they who take [refuge] in God!

[9]Fear the LORD, … you [saints of] the LORD,
for those who fear the [LORD] lack nothing.
[10]**The lions are in want and [suf]-fer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing [that] is good.
[22]O LORD you redeem the [life of] your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will [not] be punished. ***Antiphon***

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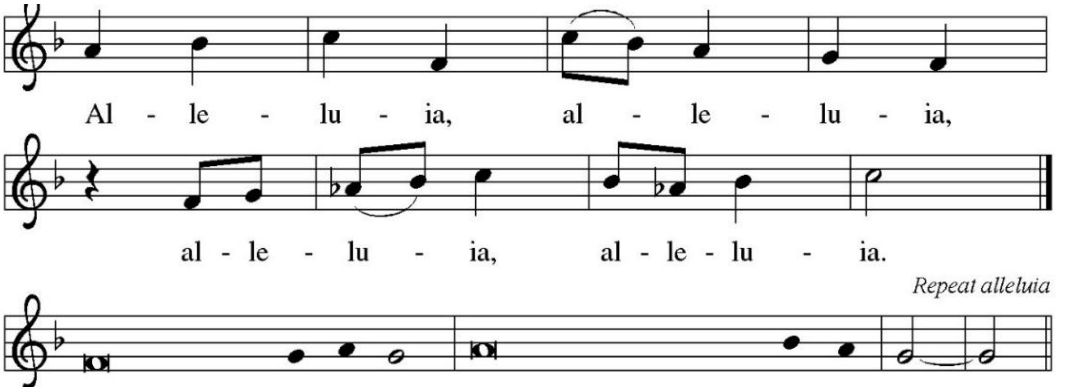
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

As the footwashing in the Upper Room demonstrates, mutual love and service within the community was a central part of Gospel life for John. It was a great blow, therefore, when his own community was irrevocably split. The letters from John (which we'll read at length next year during the Easter season) offer hope and assurance in the midst of this division. They remind the hearers that they as saints are already children (that is, sharers in the life and mission) of God.

[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. [3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



They are before the | throne of God,*
and the one who is seated on the throne will | shelter them.

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

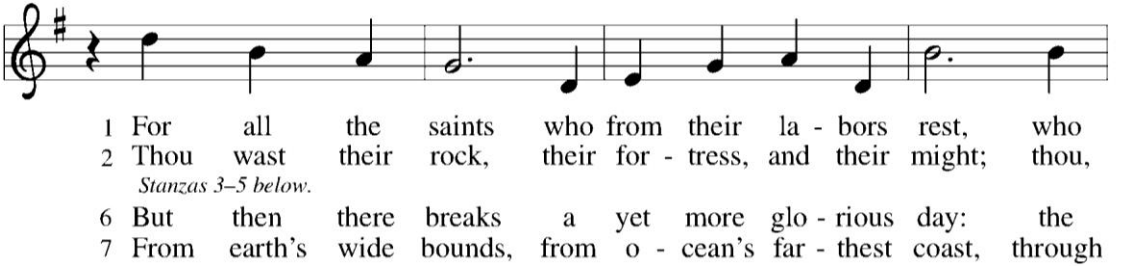
At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sits down (the normal posture for teaching at the time). Just as God at Sinai began the Ten Commandments with an affirmation ("I am the LORD your God."), he begins what will be a series of commandments with these descriptions of what his followers, the saints, already are. The Greek word we translate as "blessed" also carries the meaning of "happy."
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

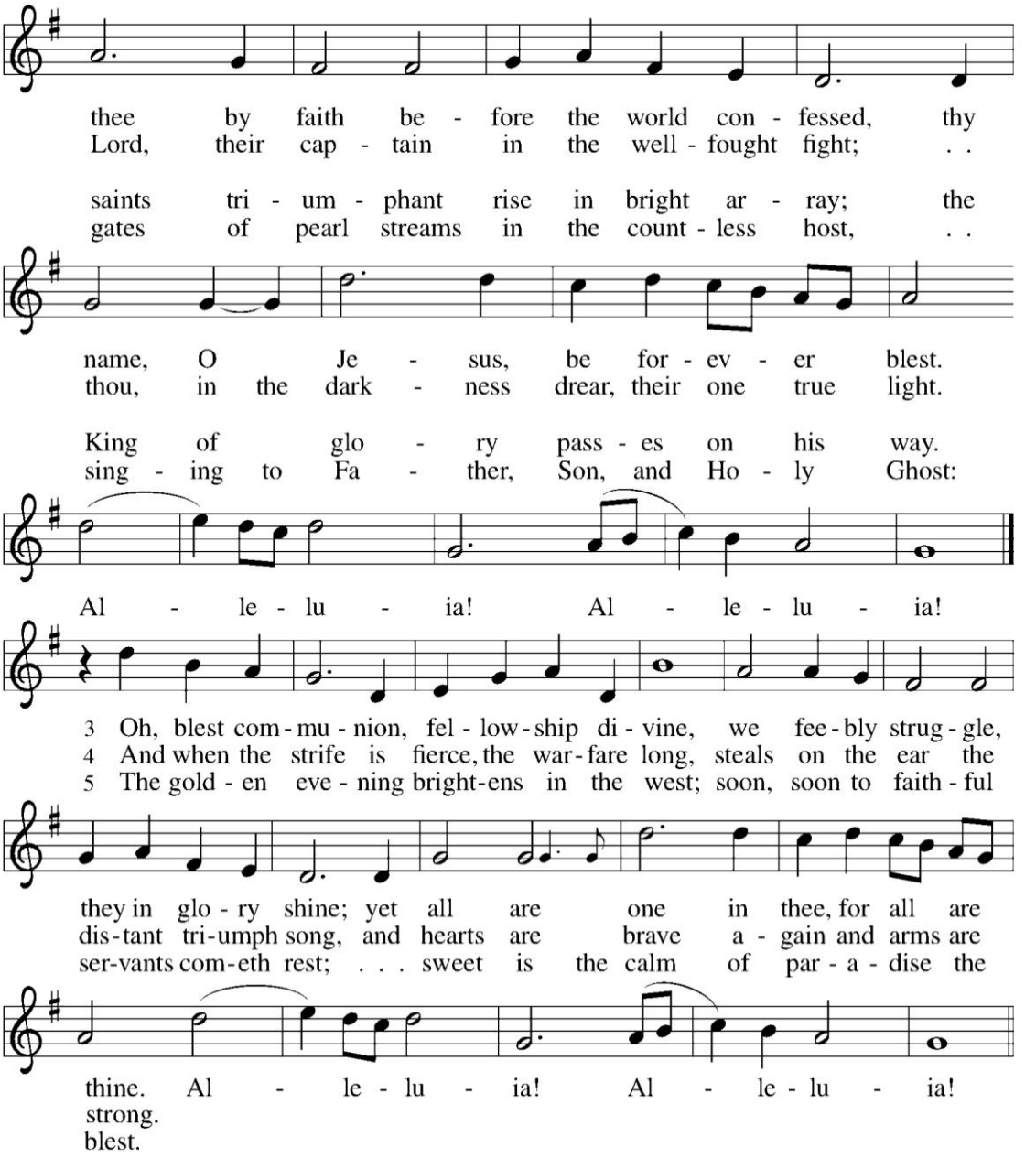
1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: *"For All the Saints" (ELW 422)*





Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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*Remembrance of All Saints

At this time, family and friends come forward to light a candle in memory of the saints who have entered the church triumphant in the past year.

P: Let us remember all the saints before God. Those whom Jesus claimed as his own and healed through the waters of Baptism.

We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, and now for adding us who celebrate the love of Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, today we remember especially:

Mary Deutsch
Barry Simpson
James Burghart
Steve Bowman
Marilyn Niemann
Sylvia Way
Paul Anderson
Joelle Ferguson
Tyler Bennington
Beverly Cwynar
Shirley Gilligan
Margaret Dvorsack
William Rehill
Karen Reede

P: Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Christ says, take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart.

A: and you will find rest for your souls.

P: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

A: And you will find rest for your souls.

*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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. Bless the land entrusted to our care: Tussey, Nittany, Rothrock Forest, the Scotia Barrens, and Slab Cabin Run. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness *(especially)*. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy:
A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors, especially Mary Deutsch, Barry Simpson, James Burghart, Steve Bowman, Marilyn Niemann, Sylvia Way, Paul Anderson, Joelle Ferguson, Tyler Bennington, Beverly Cwynar, Shirley Gilligan, Margaret Dvorsack, William Rehill, and Karen Reede. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **A: Amen.**

*Peace

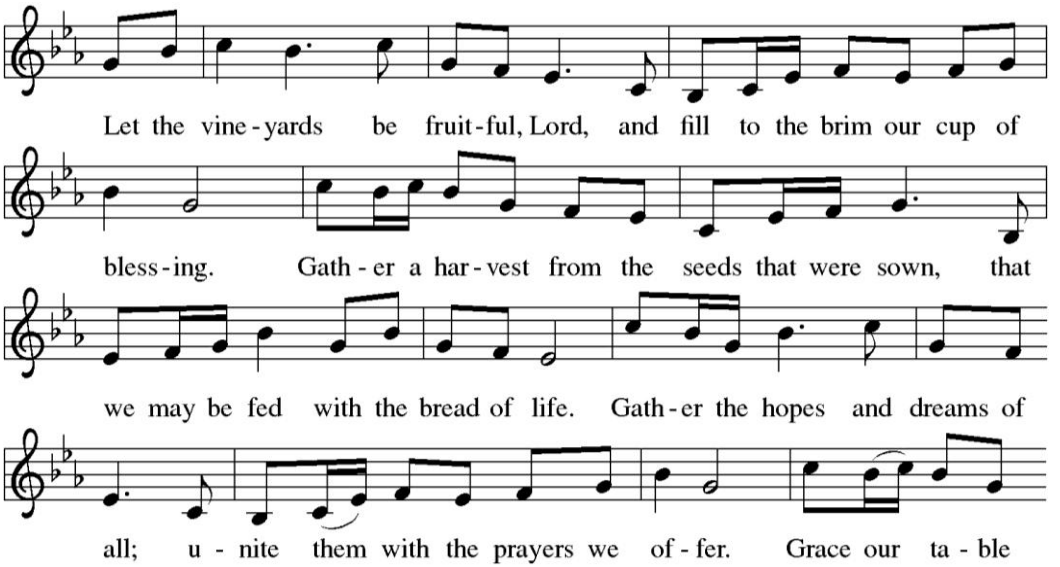
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

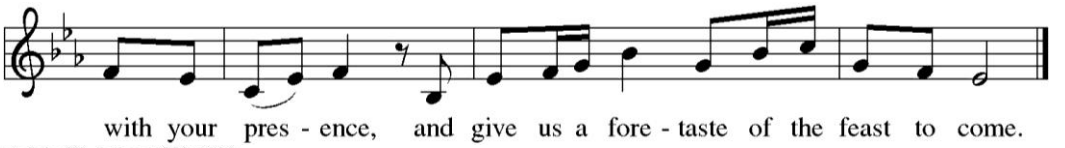
Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

*Offertory *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" (ELW 184)*





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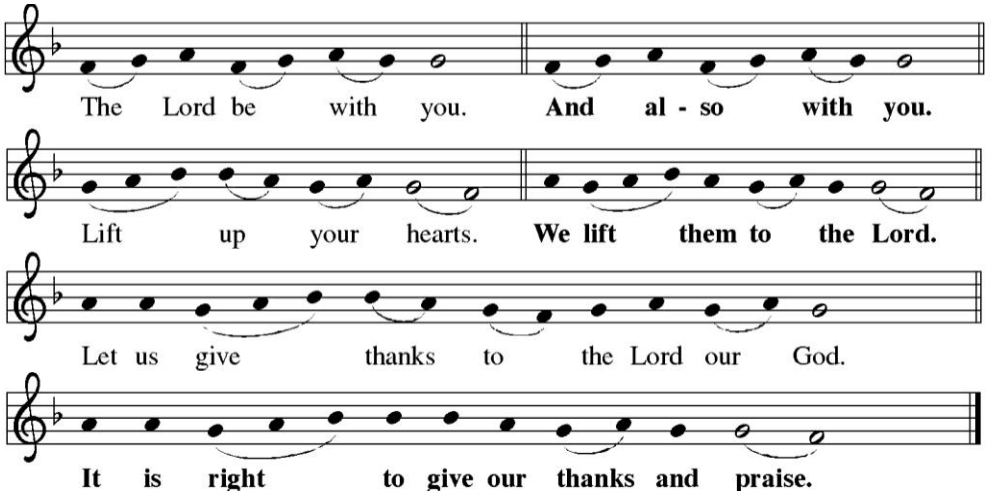
*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

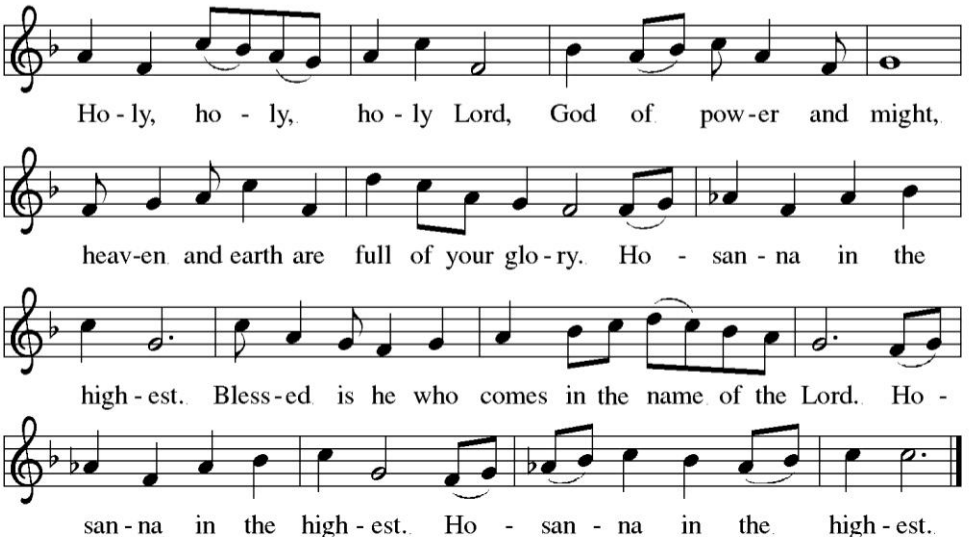
* DIALOGUE



*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. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with .... and all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: With all your saints in every age and place—
those who praised you in languages known and unknown to us,
those who served you in city streets and mountain villages,
those who were famous and those forgotten—
we give you thanks, O God, for the gift of life and love.

With all who have been baptized into Christ's body,
young and old, known and unknown,
we bless you for daily bread and living water.

With all who have carried the cross and cared for your people,
we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who shared our life, died our death, and rose to bring us new life.

In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

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."

With all the saints in glory, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when all creation is made new.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this meal and upon your people gathered here,
that we, joined with all your saints on earth and in heaven,
may be one in faith and service,
until we feast together at your eternal table.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

A: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

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

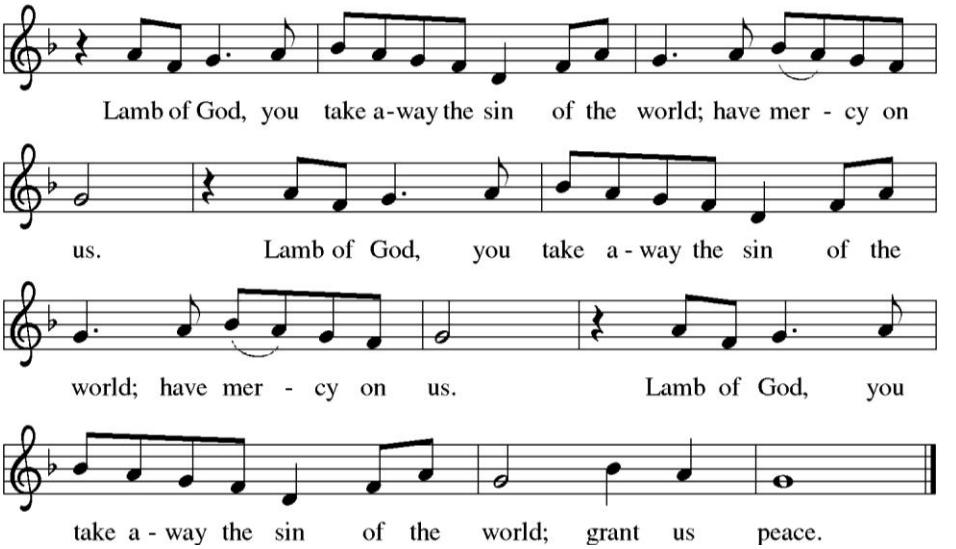
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

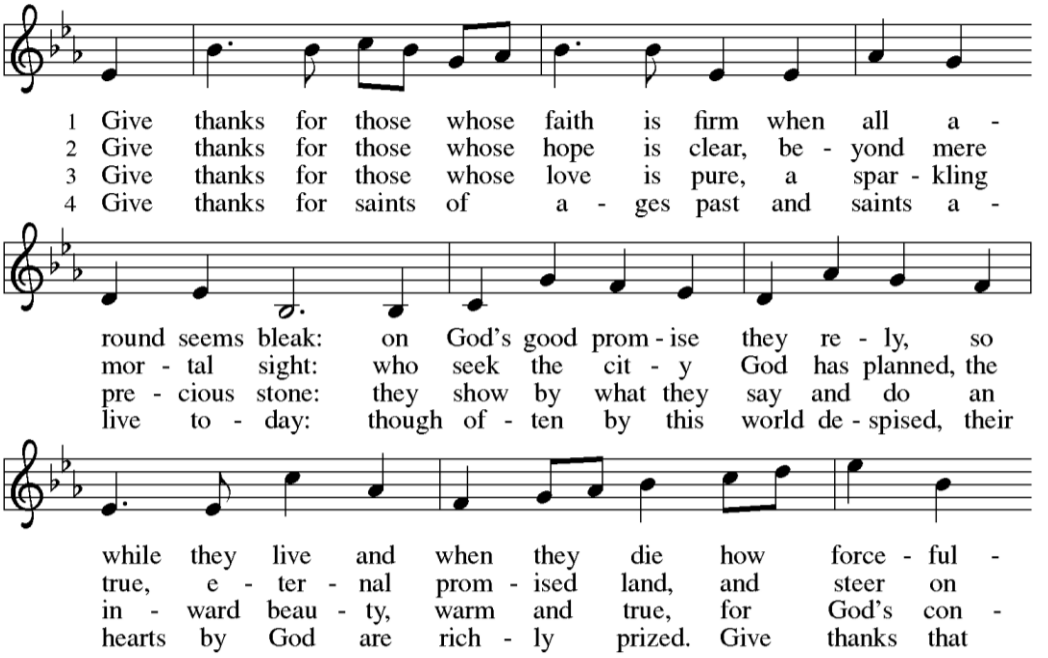
*Lamb of God

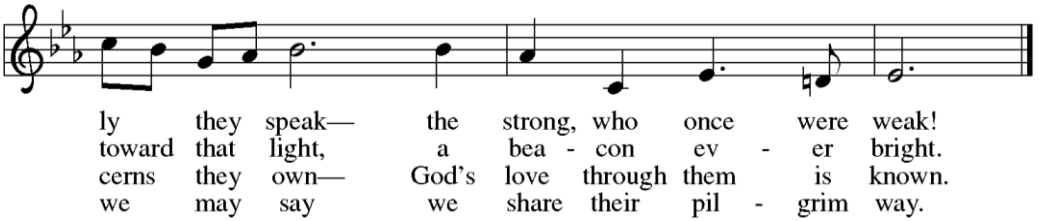


Communion

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

Communion: *"Give Thanks for Saints" (ELW 428)*





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Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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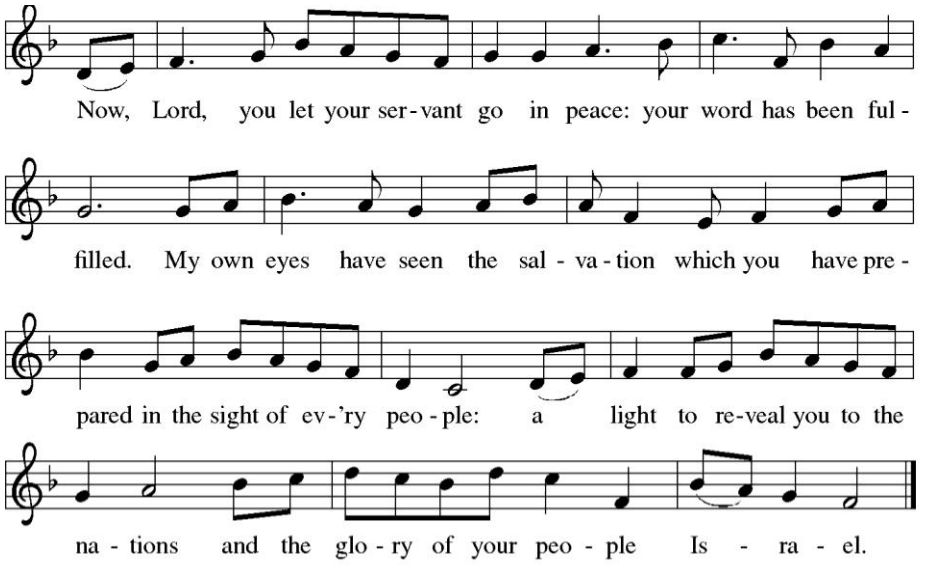
*Post-Communion Blessing

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)*



*Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, 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

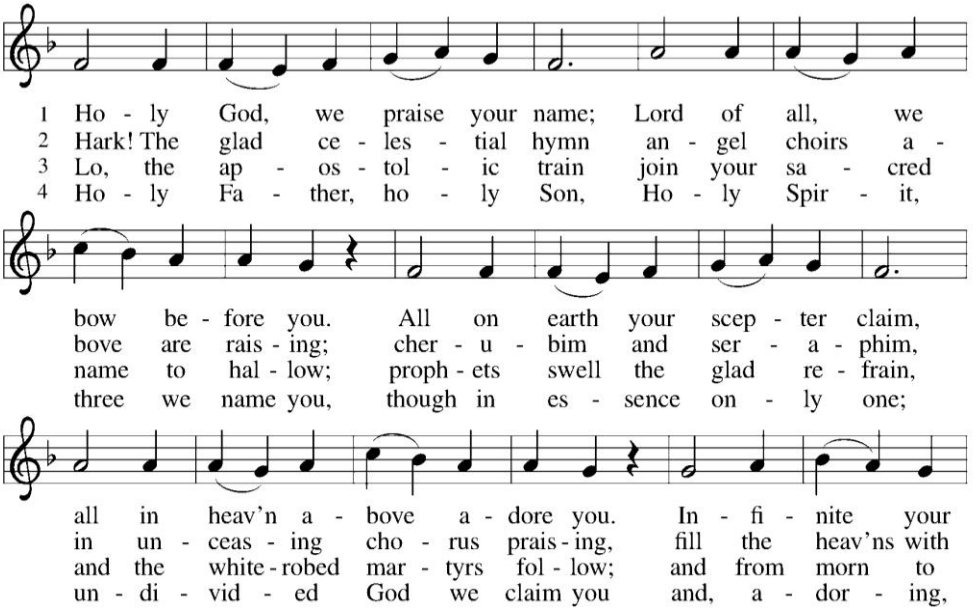
You may be seated.

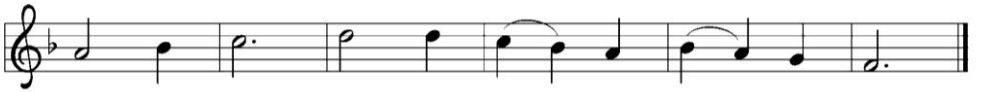
*Charge to the People

*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: *"Holy God, We Praise Your Name" (ELW 414)*





Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Reflections for After Worship

Saintly Sinners, Sinful Saints

All Saints Sunday and the appointed readings are pregnant with themes of stark contrast: death and life, condemnation and redemption, sorrow and joy, suffering and relief, present life and future life. Such is life, too, as baptized children of God. The very nature of our lives is stark contrast.

By virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made saints while we are still sinners. Every day in this juxtaposed life we navigate through rough waters such as sin, evil, pain, heartache, addiction, abuse, hunger, disease, and war. But our bearing is always set, not by the North Star but by the Daystar, who has been the heading for the faithful of every generation. With the scriptures as our compass and the confessions our map, we sail as a part of the great flotilla of saints on the waters of baptism, with the wind of the Spirit at our backs, always pointed in the direction of our guiding Daystar.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the stormy waters of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to do in our own seas. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Then John saw the river, and the multitude was there. And a sweetness filled John as he heard the sound of singing: the singing was for him. . . . No power could hold this army back, no water disperse them, no fire consume them. They wandered in the valley forever; and they smote the rock, forever; and the waters sprang, perpetually, in the perpetual desert. They cried unto the Lord forever, they were cast down forever, and lifted up their eyes forever. No, the fire could not hurt them, and yes, the lions' jaws were stopped; the serpent was not their master, the grave was not their resting-place, the earth was not their home. Job bore them witness, and Abraham was their father, Moses had elected to suffer with them rather than glory in sin for a season. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had gone before them into the fire, their grief had been sung by David, and Jeremiah had wept for them. Ezekiel had prophesied upon them, these scattered bones, these slain, and, in the fullness to time, the prophet, John, had come out of the wilderness, crying that the promise was for them. They were encompassed with a very cloud of witnesses: Judas, who had betrayed the Lord; Thomas, who had doubted Him; Peter, who had trembled at the crowing of a cock; Stephen, who had been stoned; Paul, who had been bound; the blind man crying in the dusty road, the dead man rising from the grave. And they looked unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of their faith, running with patience the race He had set before them; they endured the cross, and they despised the shame, and waited to join Him, one day, in glory, at the right hand of the Father.

—James Baldwin [James Baldwin, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (New York: Dell, 1953), 204-05.]

Upcoming Commemorations

November 1: All Saints Day

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

November 2: Daniel Payne, teacher, pastor, † 1893

Educator Daniel Payne organized a school for African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, that eventually became the largest school in Charleston. Payne eventually

enrolled in Gettysburg Seminary and was ordained by the Franckean Synod of Upper New York. He went on to found Wilberforce College in Ohio.

November 3: Judith "Judy" Kocher, † 2020; Martín de Porres, renewer of society, † 1639

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

November 4: Geraldine S. Kline, † 2006

November 6: Mark Kolesar, † 2004

November 7: John Christian Frederick Heyer, † 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, † 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, † 1918; missionaries

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans, assigned to the Andhra region of India. Ziegenbalg worked among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India and was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen, sent to Sumatra, translated the scriptures into the language of the Batak people and honored their native culture.

ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Karen Magnuson
Musicians.....Jacob Heller
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Eleanor Bird

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

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