St Paul
Pine Grove Mills

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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

Amos calls for justice to roll down like an unstoppable river. Paul urges believers to encourage each other with the promise of the Lord's coming. Jesus tells of wise and foolish bridesmaids, and the readiness that faith requires. Surrounded today by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ already present among us in the word of life and the feast that anticipates the marriage feast of the Lamb.

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

*Confession and forgiveness

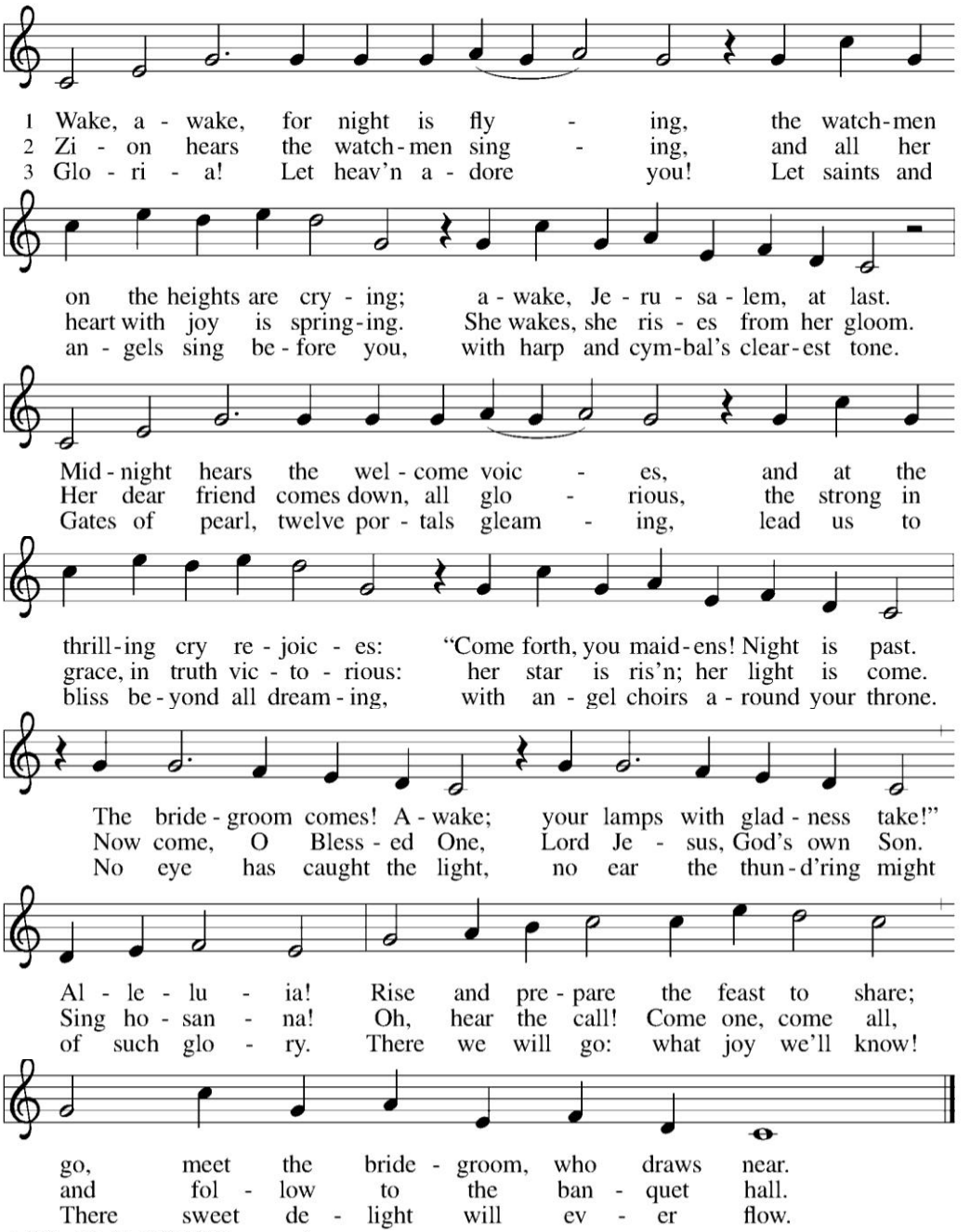
P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

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 *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (ELW 436)*



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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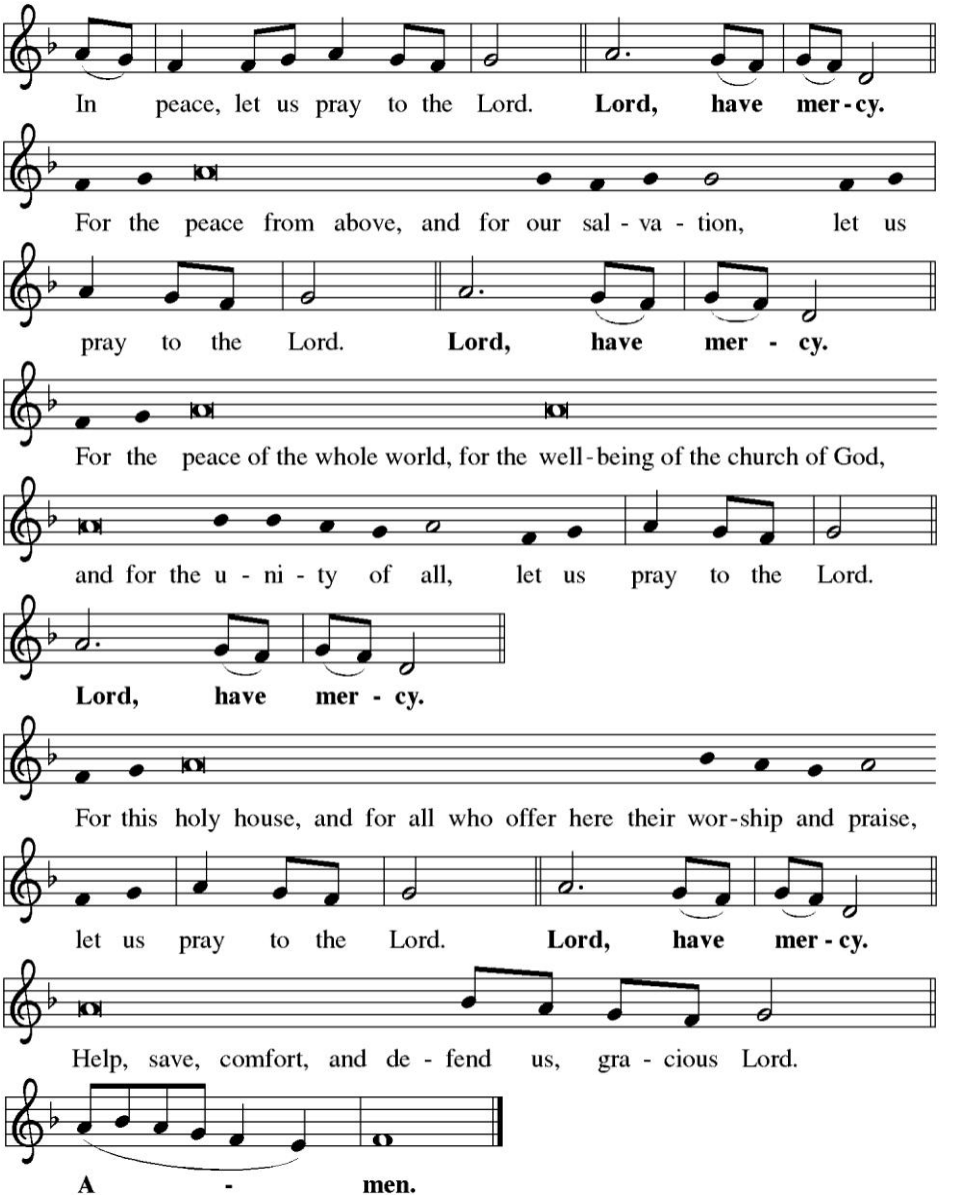
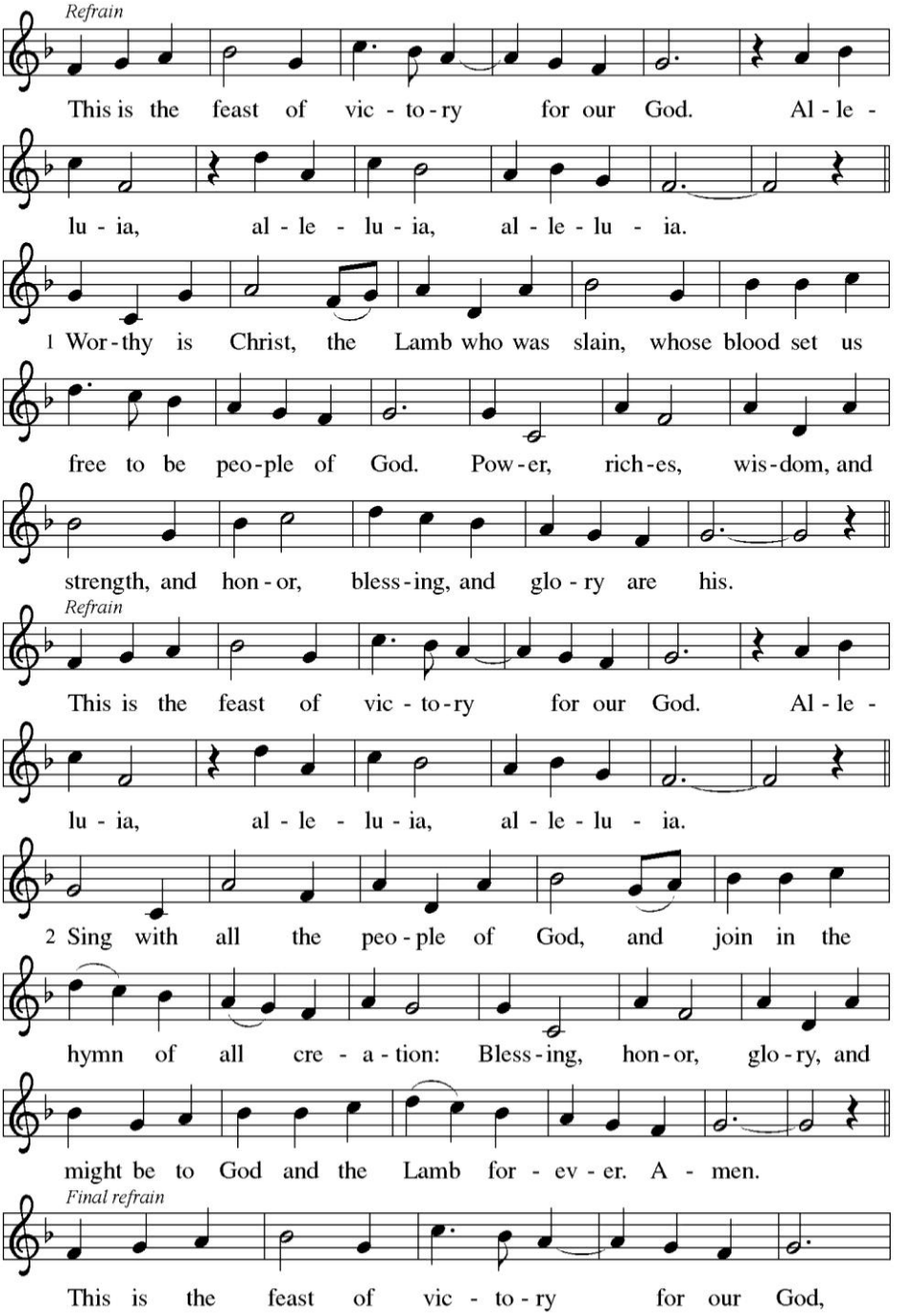
*GREETING

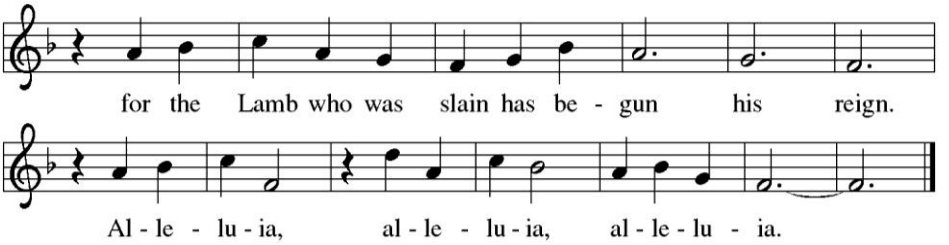
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE





*Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

Word

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

During November, almost all our readings point toward the end of time, a time when God will completely fulfill the divine promises for justice. For the prophets, this time was known as the Day of the Lord. Many of Amos's contemporaries eagerly anticipated this Day as a time when God would return Israel to power and glory. Amos, however, with his clear-eyed vision of the social and financial inequalities Israel celebrated, warned that justice would not be universally welcomed.

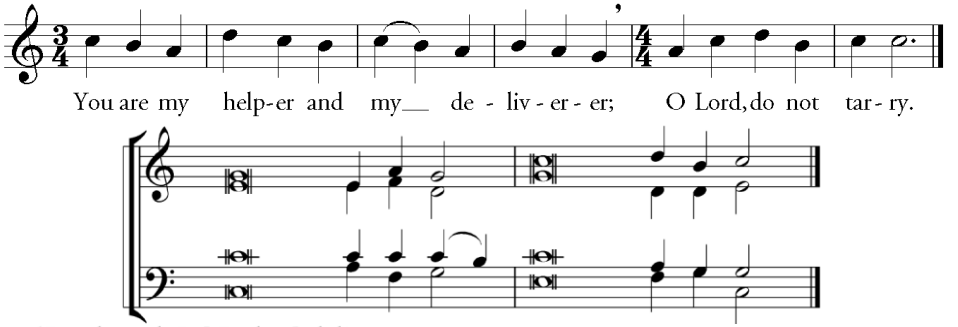
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

[24] But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalm 70

When faced with a day of absolute justice, the psalmist cries for mercy..



[1]Be pleased O [God to] deliver me;
O LORD make [haste] to help me.
[2]Let those who seek my life be put to [shame and] confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune …
draw back and [be] disgraced. ***Antiphon***

[3]Let those who say to me "Aha!" … and [gloat] over me
turn back be-[cause of] their shame.
[4]Let all who seek you re-[joice and] be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, … ["Great is] the LORD!"
[5]But as for me, … I am poor and needy; …
come to me [quickly] O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; …
O [LORD do] not tarry. ***Antiphon***

Text from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006 & music by Thomas Pavlechko © 2004, 2012 admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

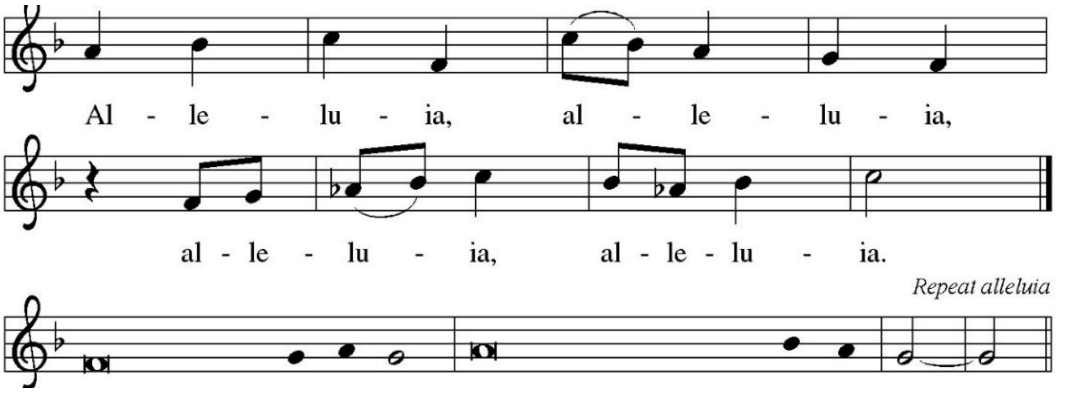
Included in this passage is the only verse in Scripture which makes reference to the so-called Rapture, which has received considerable attention in the past few years. Certainly, Paul is here giving hope to those who are grieving (who wonder if their beloved dead can share in the resurrection) and also to those who alive (who wonder if they will be able to share in it upon Christ's return). In assuring them, Paul uses familiar language to describe joining Christ in the full presence of God.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe

that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



Keep awake | and be ready,*
for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming.

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

We continue to read almost continuously through Matthew (in the interest of getting the whole story, we have skipped chapter 24 – the material in that chapter will be read almost verbatim from Mark next year and Luke the year following). This familiar parable follows a series of warnings that the end of time will come unexpectedly, so that the hearers need to be prepared at every moment for Day when God makes everything right.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

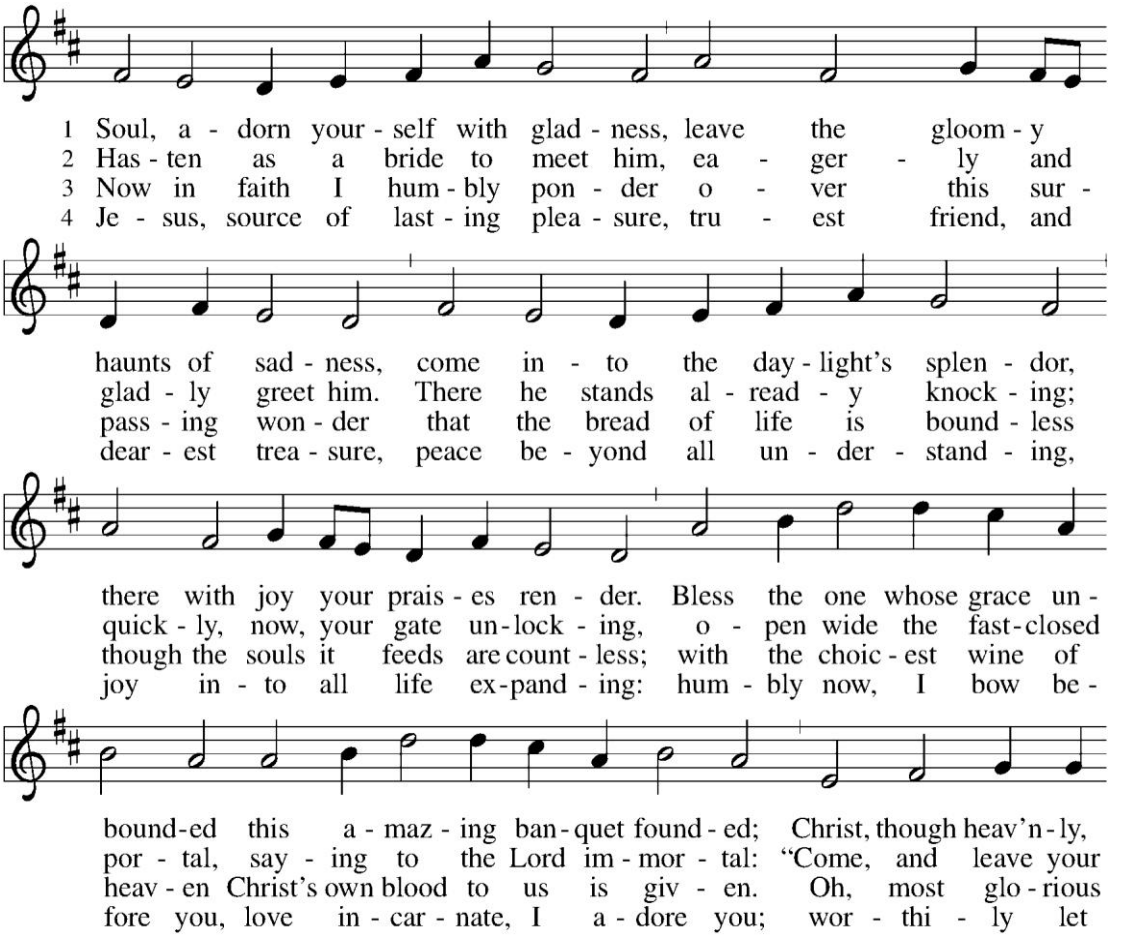
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed

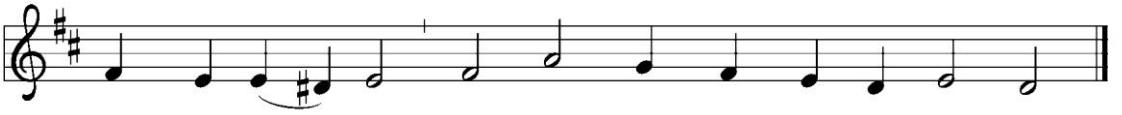
their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: *"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (ELW 488)*





high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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*Invitation to Baptism

*Apostles' Creed

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

**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.**

**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.**

*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.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict *(relief*

ministries or organizations may be named). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. *(We pray especially for . . .)* God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy: **A: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven, especially Judy Kocher, Geraldine Kline, Mark Kolesar, Pat Harpster, and Max Hummel. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. 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

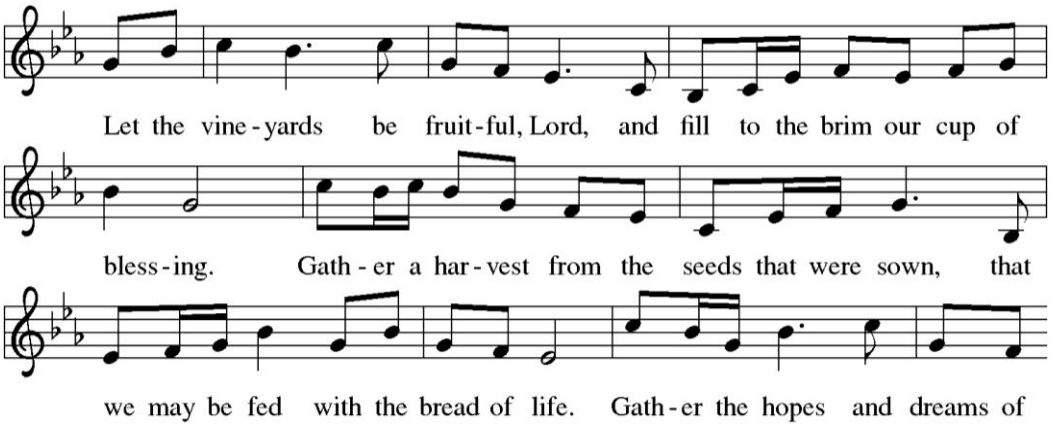
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

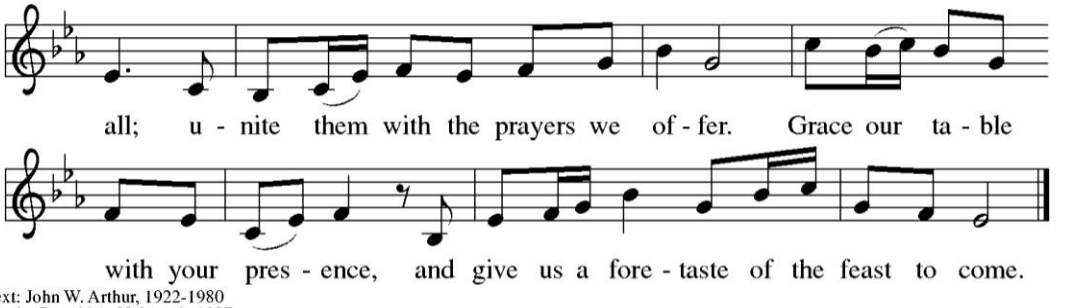
Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

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





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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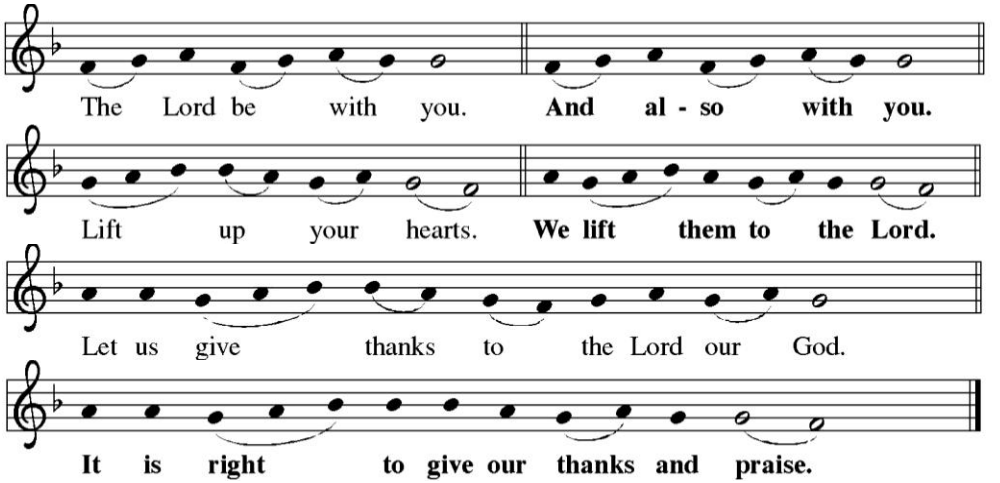
*Offering Prayer

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

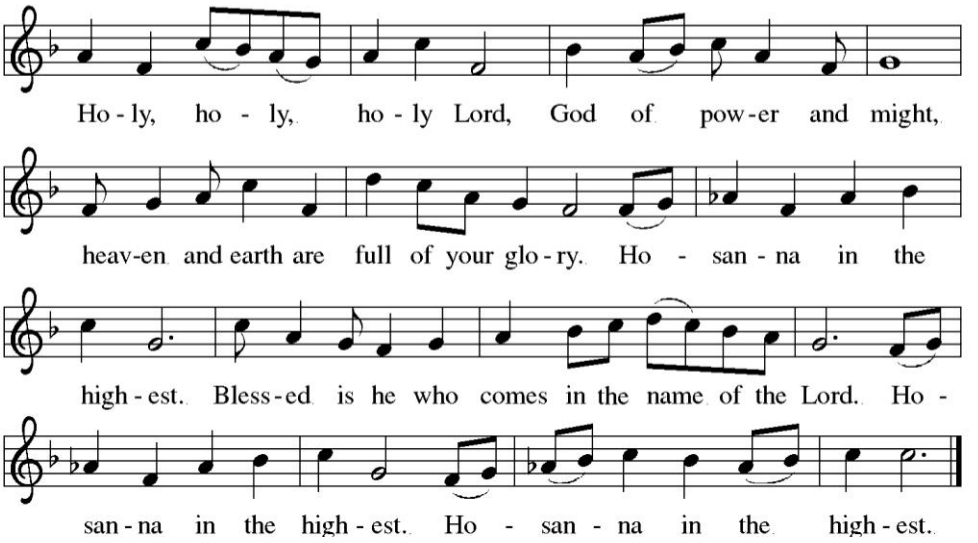
* DIALOGUE



*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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge:
we appeal to you for we and your universe are
surrounded by evil and bordered by death.
We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace
and promised an end to injustice, hunger, and harm.

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.
Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection,

we await with all the saints the advent of
his loving redemption for our suffering world.
A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make all things new in Christ.
A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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

*Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

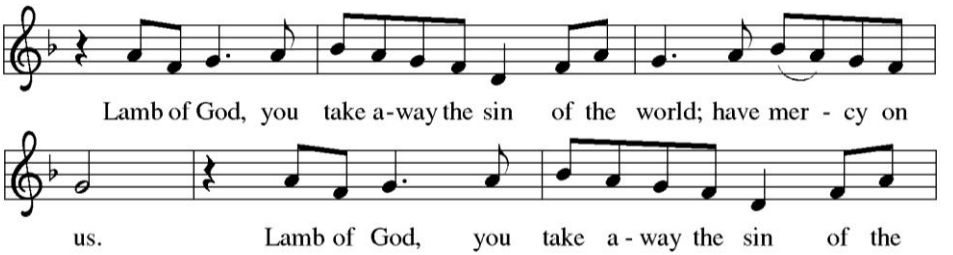
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

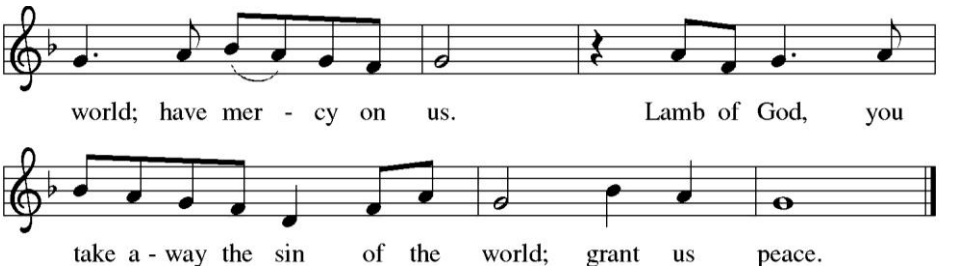
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are 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

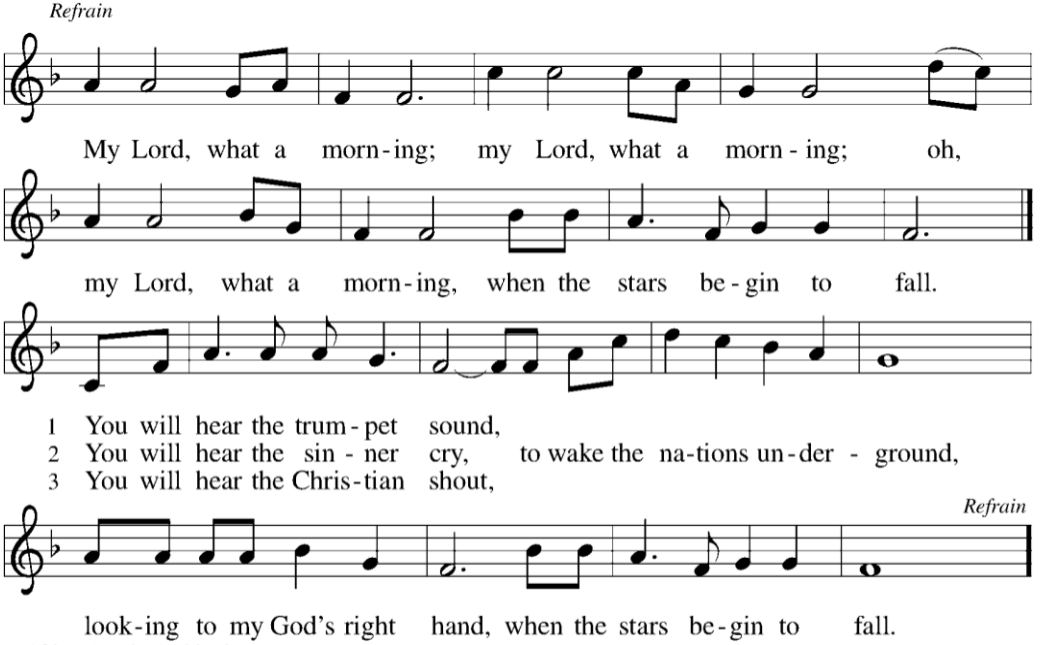




Communion

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

Communion: *"My Lord, What a Morning" (ELW 438)*

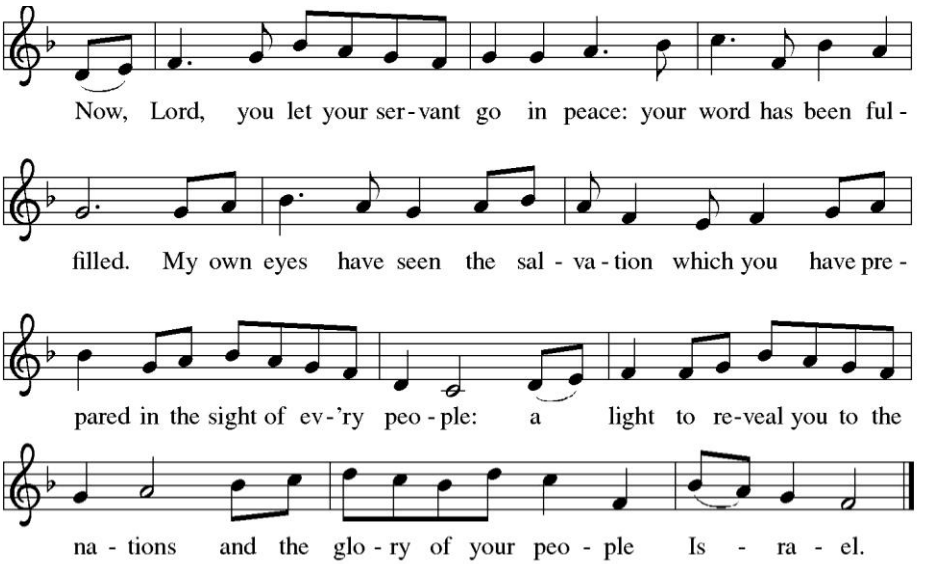


Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

*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

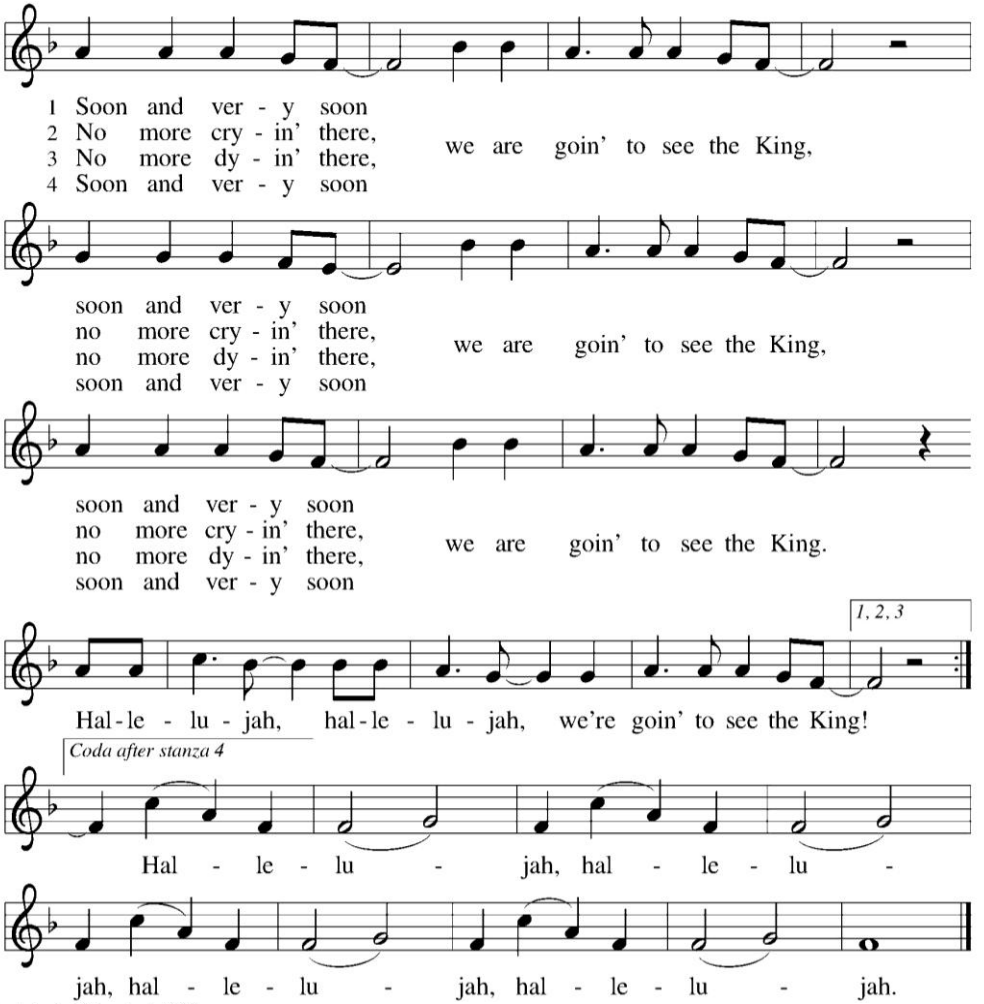
You may be seated.

*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: *"Soon and Very Soon" (ELW 439)*



Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
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*Dismissal

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

Postlude

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

The foolish maidens were foolish because they expected everything to be on schedule. No delays. The foolish didn't anticipate a sudden change of plan. They didn't prepare for every possible contingency so as to insure their presence at the feast. They didn't realize that this feast was everything, that to be there called for investment of one's total being and every resource—surplus included. The foolish didn't know the importance of the meal. What now are the expectations of your heart? How do you rank this feast? Are you here for a taste, or are you here to be dazzled by a foretaste? Foolish are you, or are you wise? Expecting a delay, we are all tempted to look here, there and everywhere for a taste of something, of something—how should we day—divine. Foolish ones, we seek here a morsel which will supply relief from the complexities of schedule and vocation. A taste among many. But the wise were wise because they brought a flask of extra oil. Large quantities of oil in single flasks. It didn't matter that there might be other feasts, other seeming purposes to life. These had no value. There was nothing else for which to save the oil. This feast was everything. This bridegroom was worth feasting with. To be wise today is to receive the power of the signs. —Mark P. Bangert

—Mark P. Bangert [Mark P. Bangert, *Homilies for the Christian People*, ed. Gail Ramshaw (New York: Pueblo, 1989), 167-69.]

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
Musicians.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Nate Clinard

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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