



ST PAUL

PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day, much like how he healed Bartimaeus, to share in this life-transforming work. Trusting the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE: "A Mighty Fortress"

(Mary McDonald)

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P: Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

(ELW 517)



1	Lord,	keep	us	stead - fast	in	your	word;	curb	those	who
2	Lord	Je - sus	Christ, your	pow'r	make	known,	for	you	are	
3	O	Com - fort - er	of	price - less	worth,	send	peace	and		

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

*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. Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

ANTHEM: “*Sola Fide*”

(arr. Tom Fettke)

WORD

FIRST READING: JOB 42:1-6, 10-17

For the last several weeks we have been reading through the book of Job, a righteous man who lost everything, but (despite the arguments of his friends and family) refused to say that it was because he had sinned. He demanded that God explain how these things happen; God responded by accepting his anger, but declaring that such explanations were beyond human comprehension.

¹Job answered the LORD:

²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.’

⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

¹⁰And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. ¹⁷And Job died, old and full of days.

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

PSALM: 46

(sung to the tune Third Mode Melody ELW 332)

This psalm was the inspiration for "A Mighty Fortress," Luther's most famous hymn. The first several verses have also provided connections with the Wartburg, the castle in which Luther took refuge after being condemned by the emperor. The whole psalm sums up very well the work of the Word and the Spirit in the thinking of the Reformers – providing both sustenance and safety.



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. God is our re - fuge and our strength, | In God our hope is found; |
| 2. Though wa - ters roar and foam with pow'e, | And tem - pests make us shake; |
| 3. God is with her; she stands firm | and will not fall a - way; |
| 4. The Lord Al - migh - ty is with us, | God is our re - fuge sure. |
| 5. "Be still and know that I am God, | Ex - aul - ted I will be! |



- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. An ev - er pre - sent help in need | When trou - ble is a - round. |
| 2. Though sur - ging wa - ters ev - en cause | the moun - tain peaks to quake. |
| 3. And God will sur - ely give her help | when comes the break of day. |
| 4. The God of Ja - cob is our trust, | Our fort - res ev - er - more. |
| 5. A - mong all na - tions, all the earth, | Ex - aul - ted I will be!" |



- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. There - fore we will not fear, though earth | should trem - ble and give way; |
| 2. There is a ri - ver that makes glad | the ci - ty of our God; |
| 3. All na - tions are in up - roar as | their king - doms rise and fall; |
| 4. Come see the works the Lord has done, | The des - o - la - tions here. |
| 5. The Lord al - migh - ty is with us, | God is our ref - uge sure; |



1. Though moun-tains fall in - to the sea, God's still our hope and stay;
2. The ho - ly place where the Most High does dwell and reign a-broad.
3. God lifts God's voice, and all earth melts be - fore God's might-y call.
4. He makes wars cease to ends of earth, And breaks the bow and spear.
5. The God of Ja - cob is our trust, Our fort-ress ev - er - more.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 7:23-28

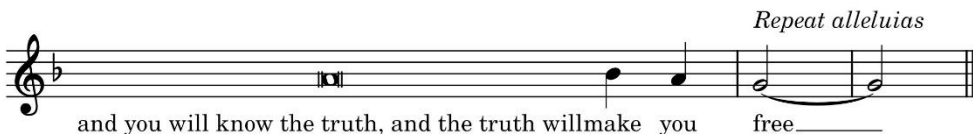
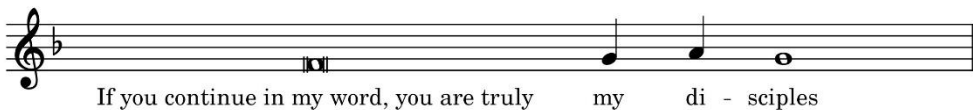
One of the themes of the book of Hebrews is how Jesus fulfills and brings to an end the sacrificial system which, until the Incarnation, had been how humans (Israel in particular) interacted with God. The author argues that that system and the priesthood which led it were pale reflections of the true intermediary between human and divine, foretastes of the feast to come.

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: MARK 10:46-52

This passage comes between Jesus' third prediction of his passion and resurrection and his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (which we read on Palm Sunday). Bartimaeus' cry is, in Greek, "Kyrie eleison" – "Lord, have mercy," the prayer with which we often begin our service. As usual in the Gospels, it is a plea for healing, rather than for forgiveness.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the tenth chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁶As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "The Church's One Foundation"

(ELW 654)



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

*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

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

L: Eternal Counselor, guide the church along your paths of mercy. Direct it to be a refuge where all are genuinely welcomed and their gifts are celebrated. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Eternal Nurturer, preserve natural places for rest and rejuvenation. Guide the work of conservationists, park managers, urban planners, gardeners, and all caretakers of natural spaces. Attune us to the wonders we disregard or fail to notice. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Eternal Wisdom, strengthen the voices of those who cry out for change to unjust systems. Give lawmakers, judges, and all those who occupy seats of power listening and compassionate hearts (*elected leaders may be named*). God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Eternal Compassion, train us to respond to the cries of those in any kind of need. Give encouragement and comfort to those who call out for relief from pain, grief, or oppression (*especially*). God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Eternal Servant, grant vision and wisdom to the church so that those who are in need are not ignored. May the command of Jesus to love our neighbor sharpen our focus for work in the kingdom. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Eternal Hope, may the legacy of the saints inspire us every day. We especially remember those in our congregation who have gone before us, like Wayne Calvin Shearburn, Mark Kolesar, Judy Kocher, Geraldine Kline, and Helen Rudolph, our former organist. We hold fast to the promise that we will be together in your presence forever. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **A: Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING



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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

(David N. Johnson)

OFFERTORY: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord vs. 1"

(ELW 395)

1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord, with all your
grac - es now out - poured on each be - liev - er's
mind and heart; your fer - vent love to them im - part.
Lord, by the bright - ness of your light in ho - ly
faith your church u - nite; from ev - 'ry land and
ev - 'ry tongue, this to your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung:
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

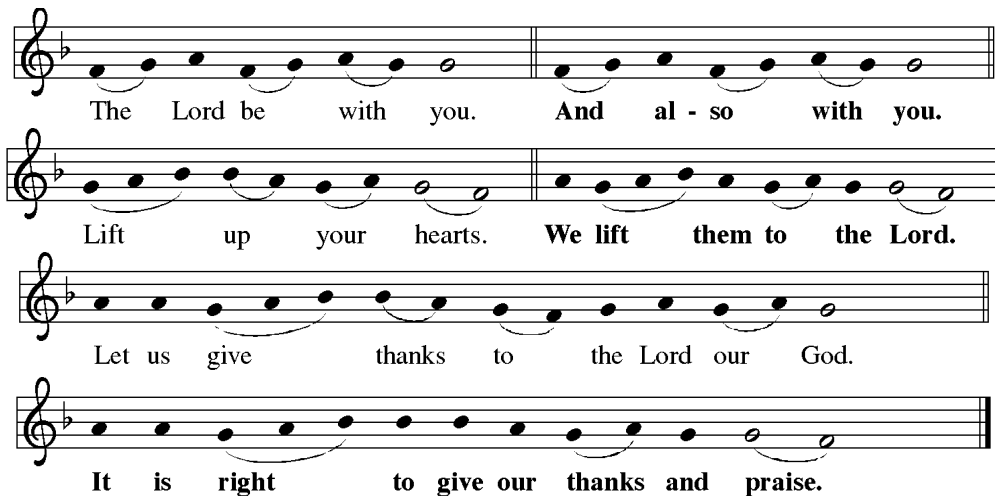
Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3; tr. composite
Music: KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT, *Enchiridion*, Erfurt, 1524

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

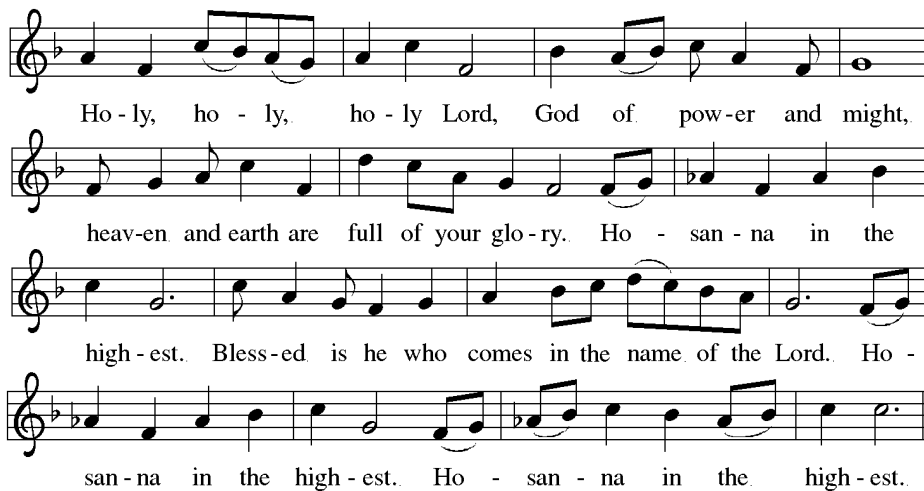
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 L: 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

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: We praise you, all-holy God, our Covenant Lord, Redeemer, and Strength of Truth,
for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas, forests, and fields,
for creatures seen and unseen, and for all the places we humans call home.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses, Miriam, and Aaron,
and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
for Luther, Melancthon, and Katarina von Bora,
Muhlenberg and Fedde, Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld,
and for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ,
who embodies forgiveness, grants us grace, and sets us free from sin and evil.

On the night before he died,
he 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.

And so we remember your Word,
his life, death, and glorious resurrection,
his presence in this meal around the world, and his promise to come again,

A: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

And we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

We pray, O God, for your Spirit, who is your law, grace, and freedom.

Bless this meal and all those who share it; continue the reformation of your churches;
and renew this world with your mercy, healing, justice, and peace,

A: Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

We praise you, all-holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield,
yesterday, today, tomorrow, 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;

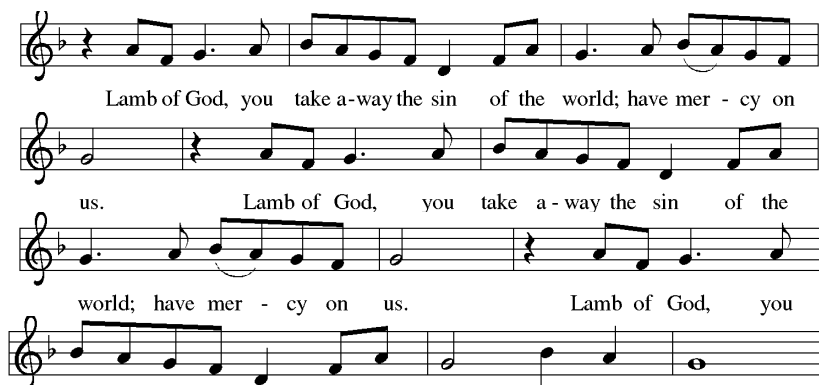
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*LAMB OF GOD



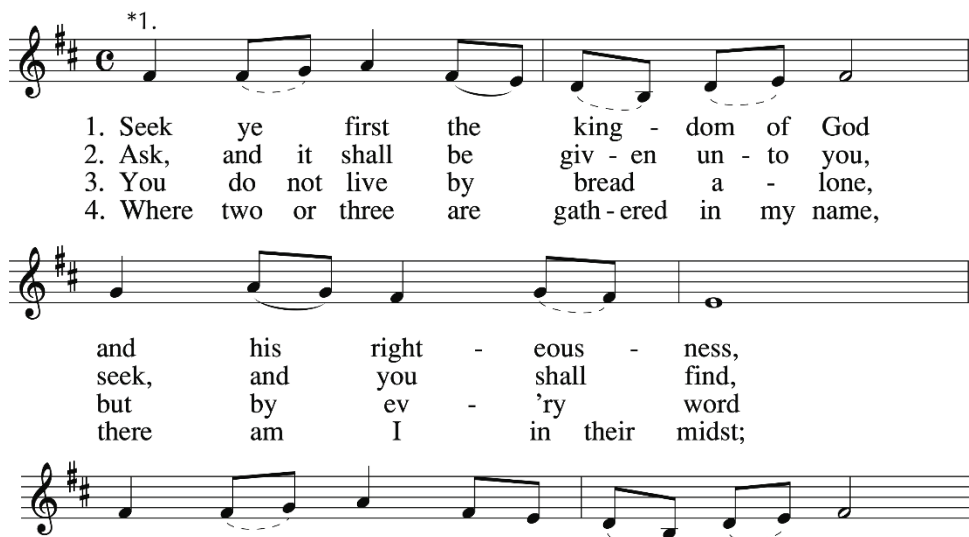
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Seek Ye First"

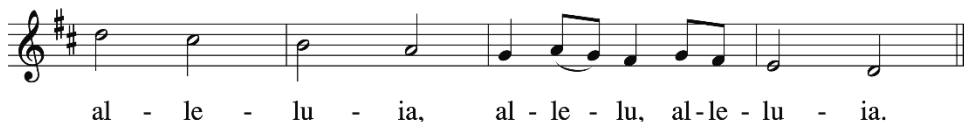
(WOV 783)



*1.
1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
3. You do not live by bread a - lone,
4. Where two or three are gath - ered in my name,
and seek, his right - eous - ness,
and you shall find,
but by ev - 'ry word
there am I in their midst;
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;
that comes forth from the mouth of God;
and what - so - ev - er you ask I will do;



2. *Optional Refrain, Descant, or Canon:*



**May be sung as a two-voice canon.*

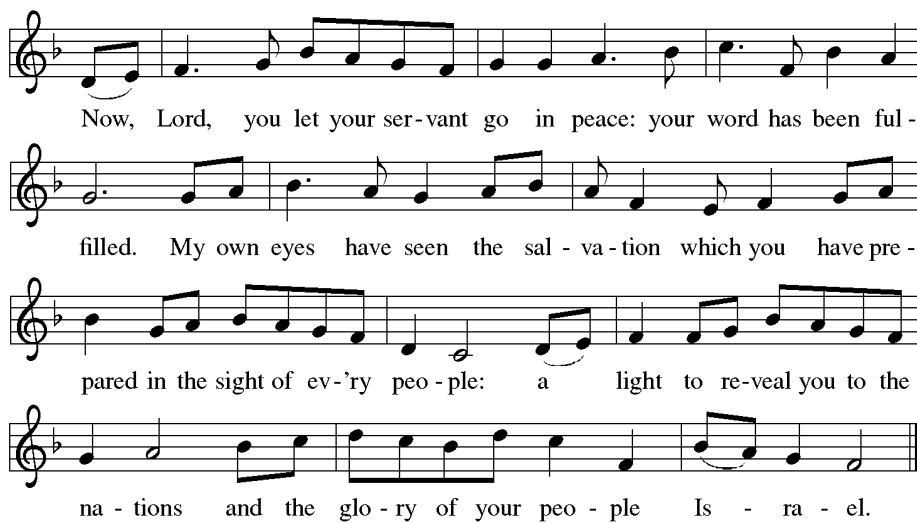
Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7; adapt. by Karen Lafferty, b.1948
Tune: SEEK YE FIRST, Irregular; Karen Lafferty, b.1948
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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace.

A: Amen.

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



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*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: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(ELW 504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Go Out with Joy”*

(Mary McDonald)



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Karen Magnuson
Musician..... James Rearick
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
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 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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