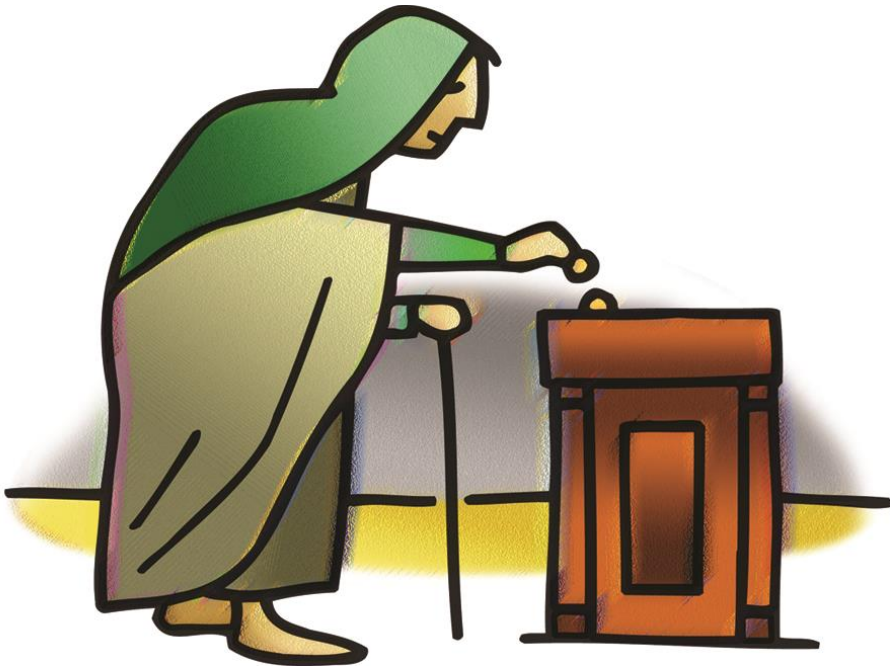




ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 10, 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

Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

PRELUDE: *"Blessed Are They That Hunger and Thirst"* (Roberta Rowland-Raybold)

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: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. 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 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

(ELW 679)



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



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



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



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

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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*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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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. O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: RUTH 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Ruth is a Moabite woman who married the son of Naomi, an Israelite. When their husbands died and Naomi returned home, Ruth accompanied her, with the prospect of starving together. But while picking up leftover grain in a field, she met the landowner, Boaz, who fell in love with her. The last verse is the surprise ending to the story – the great-grandson of the foreigner Ruth is the greatest king of Israel.

¹ Naomi said to [Ruth,] “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ² Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” ⁵ She said to her, “All that you say I will do.”

^{4:13} So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse. ¹⁷ The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

PSALM: 127

(sung to the tune Martyrdom ELW 337)

The first half of this psalm urges us to depend on God, rather than on our own hard work, for our security. The second half praises God for the gift of children, who are for the psalmist a means for providing that security. Both halves could be the song of Ruth. ✚



1. Un - less the Lord does build the house, The build - ers work in vain;
2. It's vain for you to ear - ly rise, And late at work to keep;
3. For child - ren are your her - i - tage, The Lord's great gift in truth;
4. How bless - ed is the one who has a qui - ver full of them;



Un - less the Lord the ci - ty guards, The watch men guard in vain.
To eat the bread of an - xious toil God grants God's loved ones sleep.
Like ar - rows in the war - rior's hand are child - ren of one's youth.
They'll not be shamed when in the gate with foes_ they do_ con - tend.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 9:24-28

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 Jesus, the true intermediary between human and divine, foretastes of the feast to come.

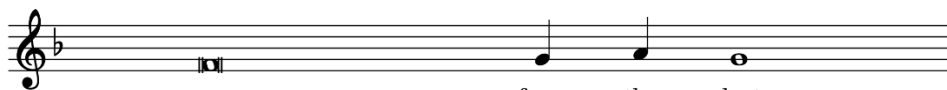
²⁴ Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the holy place year after year with blood that is not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia



The Lord raises up the poor from the dust,
Repeat alleluias



to make them inherit a seat of honor. _____

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 12:38-13:2

This passage continues describing Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem during the week before his crucifixion. Immediately after this story, he begins to warn of the destruction which will come upon Jerusalem and the temple (both were destroyed in rebellions in AD 70).

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

³⁸ As [Jesus] taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

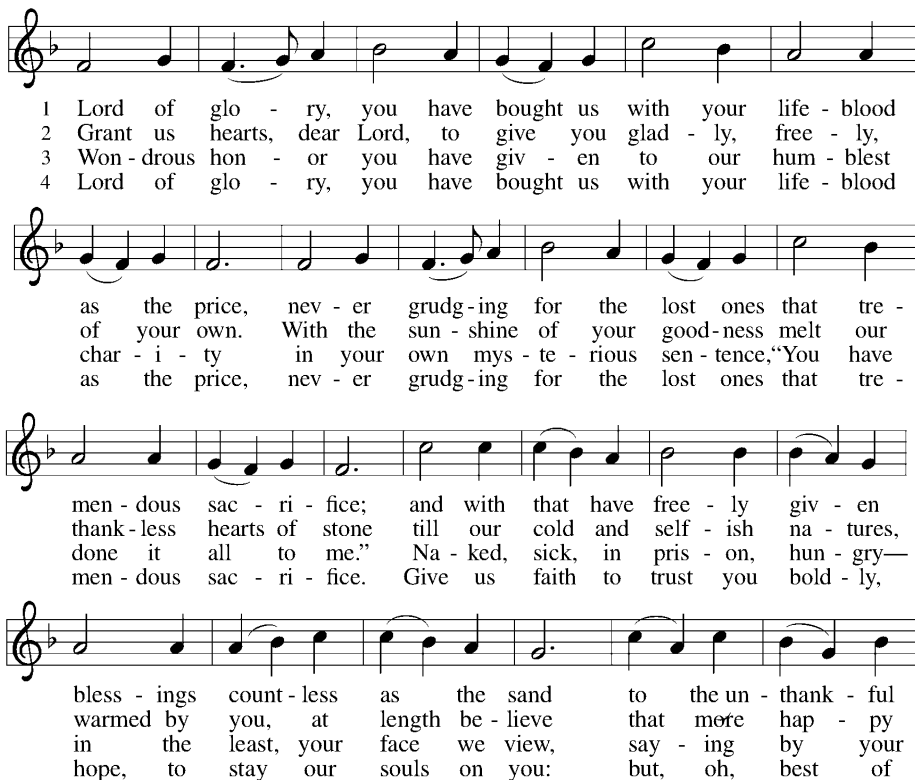
^{13:1} As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

(ELW 707)



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood

as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -

men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,

bless - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

***INVITATION TO BAPTISM**

***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**

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders (*local church leaders may be named*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts (*current places of war and conflict may be named*) and pursue peace. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill (*especially*). Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long especially Pat Harpster and Malcolm Hummel Sr. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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: "Marching to Zion"

(Jon Spong)

OFFERTORY: "Though the Earth Shall Change"

(ACS 1025)



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,
though the wa-ters rage, you, God, are here.
Though the na-tions war, though the peo-ples bat-tle,
though the em-pire fal-ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46

Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

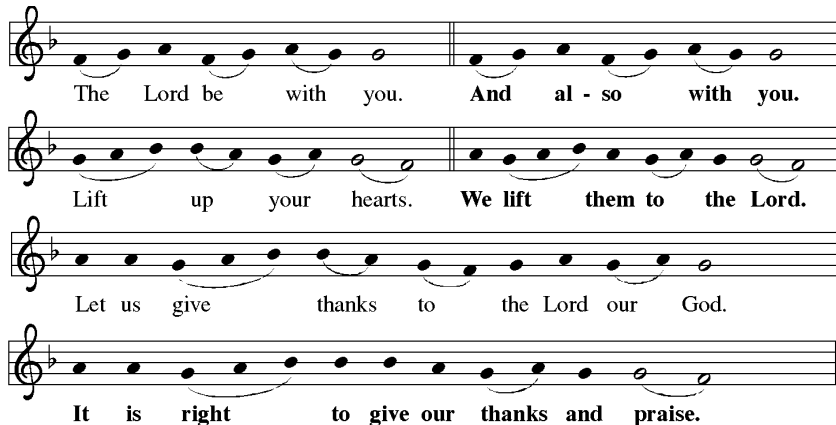
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*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal, you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



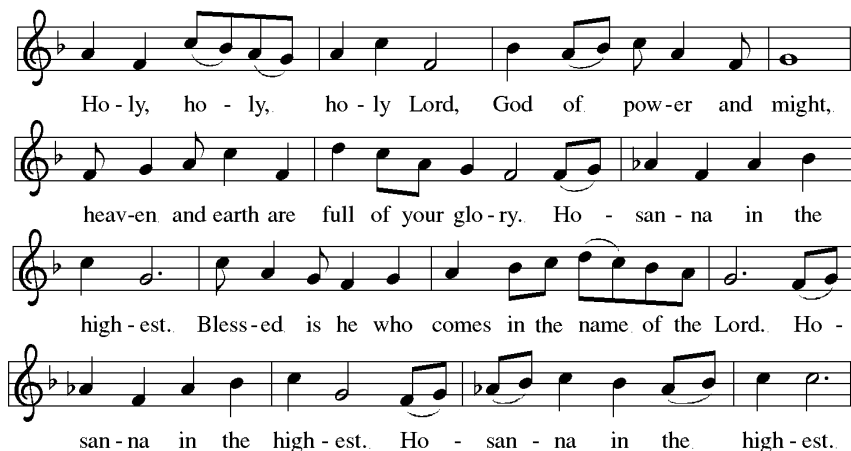
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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. You comfort 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 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 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 of 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;

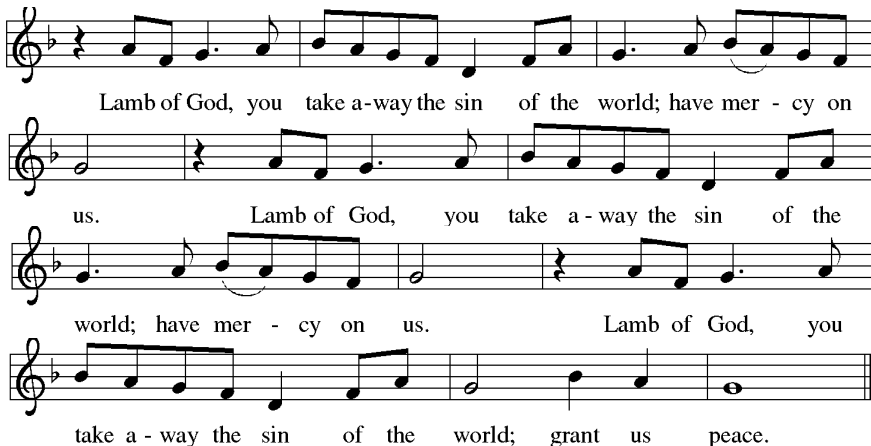
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

***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

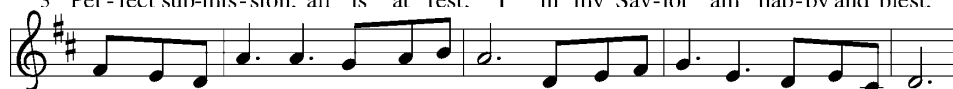
L: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "Blessed Assurance"

(ELW 638)

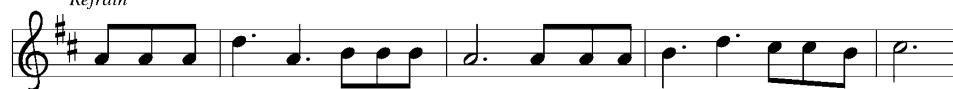


- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion. all is at rest: I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest.



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

*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)



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. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

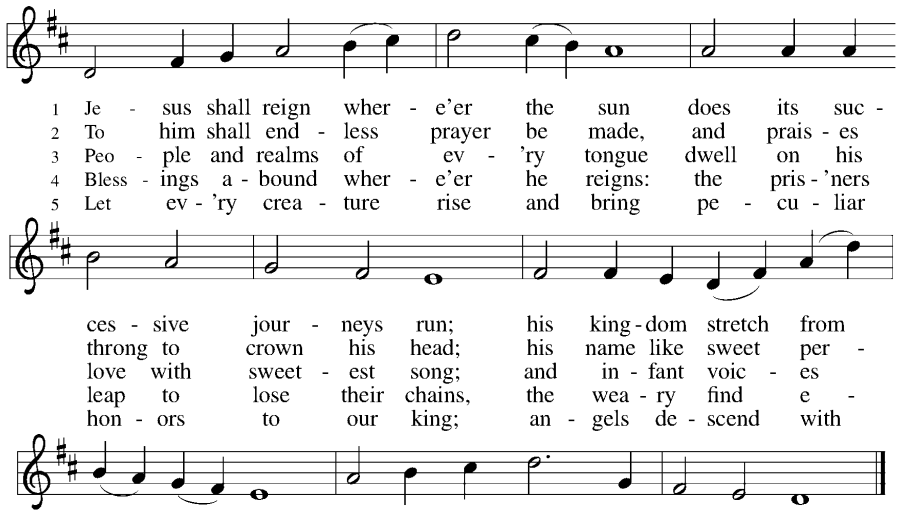
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: “Jesus Shall Reign”** (ELW 434)



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE: “Marching to Zion” (Jon Spong)



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
Musician..... James Rearick
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Michelle McMullen

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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