We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Transfiguration *February 19, 2023*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Who makes all things new, Whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection Holy One, source of our renewal, We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen. Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 631 LOVE DIVINE

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art. Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast. Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be. End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

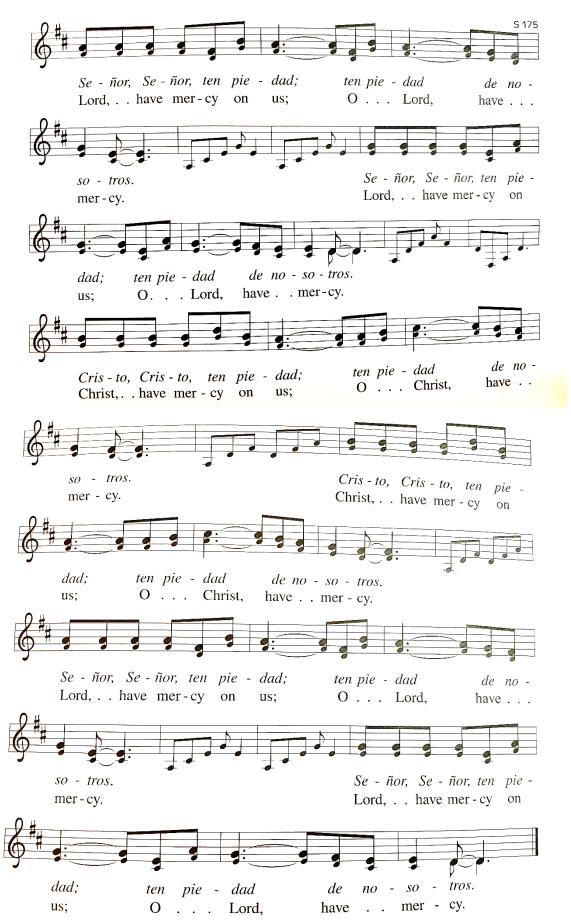
Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

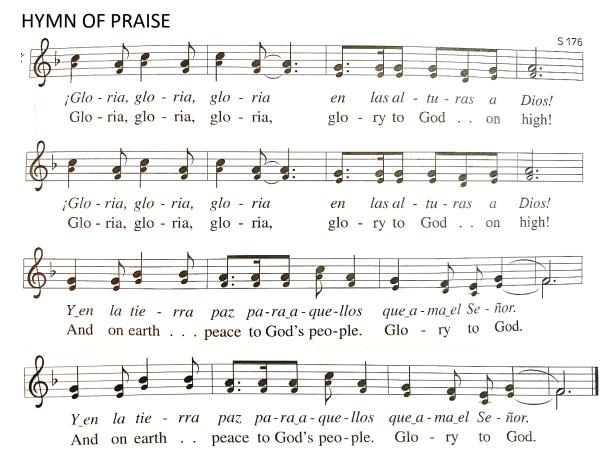
Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

GREETING

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

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

EXODUS 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2 PETER 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MATTHEW 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 834 IMMORTAL INVISIBLEImmortal, invisible, God only wise,In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might; Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of all; We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; All laud we would render; oh, help us to see 'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

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 life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Embolden us to witness to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip us and move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness. May our lives proclaim your greatness.

Merciful God......receive our prayer.

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservationists and all who protect vital habitats. Protect the earth in changing climate and teach us your loving ways of care.

Merciful God......receive our prayer.

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions that struggle with reconciliation, empower peacemakers with your Spirit of truth and trust. We remember Ukraine, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, and Palestine. Where death and danger prevail, equip relief workers and all who provide aid. We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria in the devastation of earthquakes. May your Spirit of comfort and courage rest with them.

Merciful God......receive our prayer.

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all experiencing trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Hold close in love the families touched by gun violence. Comfort all who grieve and may your Spirit dwell with those known to us we hold in our hearts......

Pause

Merciful God......receive our prayer.

Encourage us in this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and turn our hearts toward choices that are life-giving for all. Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbours. Make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God......**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in Thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as your people of justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy God, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh

you have opened the eyes of faith

to a new and radiant vision of your glory;

that, beholding the God made visible,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

in the night in which he was betrayed, 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. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God! Thanks be to God!

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words "the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 866 WE ARE MARCHING

We Are <u>Marching</u> In The Light Of God We Are Marching In The Light Of God x 2 We Are Marching Marching We Are Marching Oh Oh We Are Marching In The Light Of God x 2DancingPrayingSinging

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE