

<sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup>Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) <sup>21</sup>Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup>And they glorified God because of me.

### **The Alleluia and Verse**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name  
before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 19:27-30*

<sup>27</sup>Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

### **The Apostles' Creed (p. 192)**

**The Hymn of the Day:** 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

### **The Homily**

*Offerings are not gathered during Service. While Pastor Messer prepares the Table for the Holy Supper, you may spend time prayerfully preparing to receive the Blessed Sacrament (you may wish to read through Luther's "Christian Questions . . ." on pp. 329-330). If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.*

### **The Prayer of the Church**

**☩** Lord, in Your mercy, **☩** hear our prayer.

### **The Service of the Sacrament**

*(Communicants are to be in full confessional fellowship with the LCMS)*

**The Preface - Agnus Dei** (pp. 194-199)

### **The Distribution**

**The Nunc Dimittis - Benediction** (pp. 199-202)

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

# The Conversion of St. Paul



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# The Conversion of St. Paul

## DIVINE SERVICE 3, PAGE 184

### The Service of Preparation

*(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)*

#### Preparatory Prayer

*Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.*

### Confession and Absolution (pp. 184-185)

### The Service of the Word

#### The Introit

*Ps. 89:1, 5, 15-16; antiphon: Ps. 119:46*

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O LORD,]  
and shall not be put to shame.

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,**  
who exult in your name all the day  
and in your righteousness are exalted.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O LORD,]  
and shall not be put to shame.

### The Kyrie (p. 186)

### The Gloria in Excelsis (pp. 187-189)

#### The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### The First Reading

*Acts 9:1-22*

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

### The Gradual

*Eph. 4:8b, 11, 12b; 2:19a, c*

When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
and he gave gifts to men.

**He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,  
for building up the body of Christ.**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but members of the household of God.

### The Epistle

*Galatians 1:11-24*

<sup>11</sup>For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup>was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;