

Conversion of Paul

Sunday, January 26, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

*As we gather together, let us now refrain from conversation, quiet ourselves,
and welcome the Lord Jesus Christ into our midst.*

PRELUDE

“Fantasia”

G. Telemann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us gather in the name of Father, the † Son, and Holy Spirit,
One in Three, and Three in One, ever glorious and blessed Trinity.
Amen.

Recognizing our failures and faults, let us confess our sins to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you and against our neighbors
by what we have done and by what we have failed to do.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us, heal us, and renew us,
that the Light of Christ might shine in us—and through us.**

Hear the voice of Jesus who says,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”

Know that you are forgiven of your sins,
and that you are freed to love God and serve your neighbor.

May the Light of Christ guide you now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Acts

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and 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.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah. (Acts 9:1-22)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67 (Responsively)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

²**Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

⁷May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

A Reading from Galatians

[Paul writes:] ¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me. (Galatians 1:11-24)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Luke 21:10-19

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁰[Jesus] said to [the disciples,] "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" #676

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (In Unison)

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

Holy One, your voice calls us to follow. Thank you for raising up missionaries in every generation and for all who create communities of grace today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Maker of all, we rejoice in the beauty and abundance of the earth. Unite us in our shared calling to be stewards of creation, to reduce waste, and to simplify our lives for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healer of all, thank you for sanctuary and safety. Lift up all who live where fear governs and evil divides. Grant healing and wholeness to all who are sick, lonely, or grieving (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of courage, thank you for faithful teachers and evangelists in this and every place. Build up our faith as you call us to follow you and bless our children, youth, and adults who engage in learning. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, your Son prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and harmony we may carry to the world the message of your love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, we marvel at your resurrection. Give us faith to place all hope in you as we give thanks for our faithful departed. May their witness help us follow in your path. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

For 10:30 service ushers: Take the offering plates from the table in the back of the church. Receive the collection along the center aisle, from front to back, then walk behind the last pews and up the side aisles to receive the collection on the outside aisles, again from front to back. Return to the back and wait for the Communion Assistant to come forward with the alms basin.

Offertory (8:00)

“Trumpet Tune”

M. McCabe

Anthem (10:30)

“Lead Me, Lord”

S. Wesley

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of wonder, you give us the gift of life and daily bring forth abundance from your creation. Upon this table, we place bread and wine, and offer all we are, and all we have. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. **Amen.**

MEAL



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

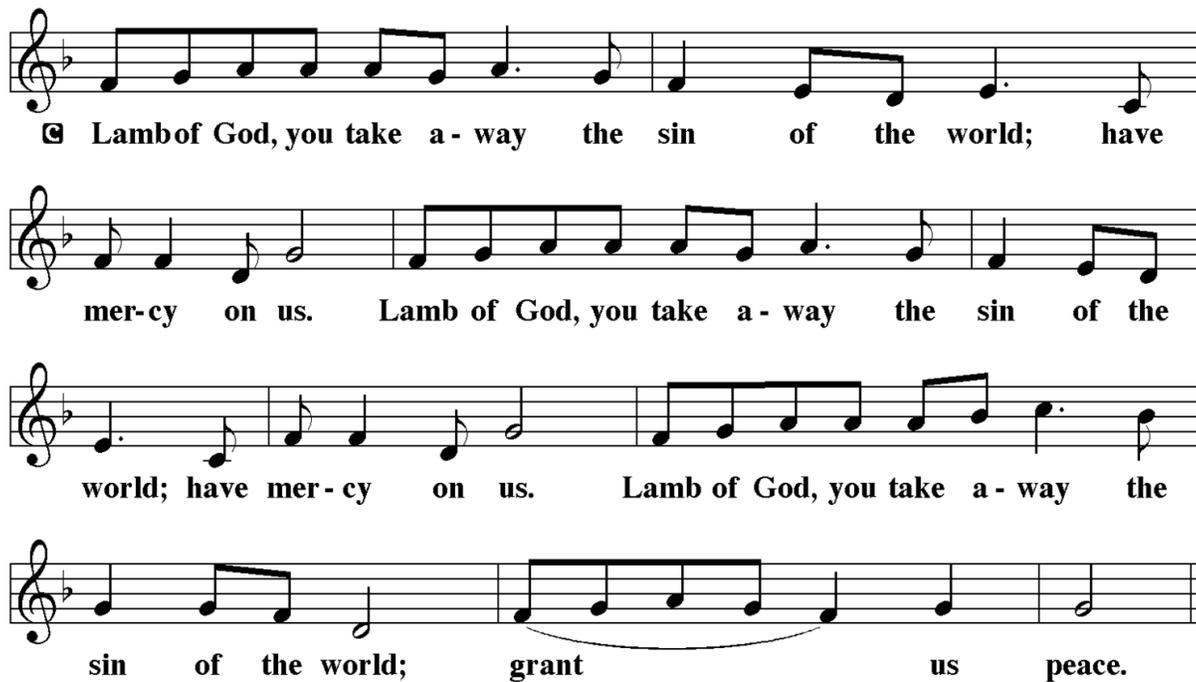
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

DISTRIBUTION

The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament in their pews. Those who do not desire to receive the Sacrament may come forward to receive a blessing.

AGNUS DEI



☐ 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 HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord” #574

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God the Father, who called us from darkness into light, make us true bearers of God’s light.

May God the Son, who redeemed us by his precious blood, empower us to follow his example in serving others.

May God the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, strengthen us to endure the shipwrecks of life and guide us to reach the shores of salvation.

And may Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Faith of Our Fathers”

#812

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let the Light of Christ shine in all that you say and do.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Festive March”

G. F. Handel

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar Flowers are presented in honor of our daughter Madison on her 21st birthday by her parents, Doug and Karen Travor.

Chancel Flowers are presented in memory of Hilary and Betty Picard by their family.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Lois and Boris Sklar by Greg, Cindy, Alexander, and Alyssa.

SERVING TODAY (1/26/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Gail Rarick

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Tina Butler;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Julianne Schenck;

USHERS: Madelyn Knecht and Jean Premich; **GREETER:** Jim Spotts;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Jean Premich, and Barb Sterner;

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Danielle Richards

SERVING NEXT WEEK (2/2/20)

8:00 am

LECTOR: Connie Teter; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Cindy Ritschel; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Madelyn Knecht

USHERS: Glenda Bright and Barb Sterner; **GREETER:** Doug Travor

COUNTERS: Tom Wehr, Gwen Wehr, and Glenda Bright

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Danielle Richards

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
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Sunday, January 26

8:00 AM

Worship

9:15 AM

Adult Forum

10:30 AM

Worship

3:00 PM

Hymn Sing

Wednesday, January 29

6:00 PM

Bell Choir

7:00 PM

Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 30

6:30 PM

Financial Peace

Saturday, February 1

9:00 AM

Chili & Soup-er Bowl Sale

5:30 AM

Worship with Communion

Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316 Ext. 11
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-573-4076
Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152
Karen Travor, Treasurer karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-8757
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-366-8766
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	936-648-6809

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 2ND

Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in the national Soup-er Bowl of Caring drive and collected more than \$9.8 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. This year we will collect only soup (in cans or boxes), and monetary donations, or grocery store gift cards to give to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Donations will be collected at all services on Saturday, Feb 1st and on Sunday, February 2nd. Please mark your calendar!

HYMN SING EVENT

Today, January 26, at 3 PM, St. Paul's will hold a Hymn Sing. Please join us as we sing old favorites, classics, and more modern tunes. This will be another opportunity to celebrate our 175th anniversary as a Lutheran congregation. Coffee and cookies will follow the event!

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND
OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020,
FOLLOWING OUR 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE!**