

# *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, August 22, 2021*

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

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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### GATHERING

**PRELUDE** "Prelude on *Rhosymedre*" R. V. Williams

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,  
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

O God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another,  
and against your good creation.**

**We have stored up treasures for ourselves  
and turned away our neighbors in need.**

**We have used our time foolishly and daily strayed from your path.**

**Forgive us, that we may know true joy and freedom  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Through Jesus Christ, the true Bread of life, God has given us life and hope.  
Know that your sins are forgiven and live abundantly – as we await his coming!  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## “Earth and All Stars”



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



*Refrain*  
God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

# 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

### “O God beyond All Praising”



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:  
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

### A Reading from Joshua

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

(Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 34:15-22**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD rescues them from them all.

<sup>20</sup>**He keeps all their bones;  
not one of them will be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil brings death to the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

<sup>22</sup>**The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

### **A Reading from Ephesians**

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the

evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

(John 6:56-69)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Our Father, by Whose Name”

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,  
2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty

in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.  
with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:  
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;

Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as  
our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -  
in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.  
hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.  
this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

**SERMON**

**THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

A new school year will begin later this week. We invite all students with their backpacks, tablets, and school supplies, and all teachers, and everyone who is part of our educational system to come up to the chancel to receive a blessing.

In St. Paul's letter to the Romans, he encourages believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, so that they may discern what is the will of God – what is good, acceptable, and perfect (*Romans 12:2b*).

Students, will you listen and learn from those whom God has called to teach? And will you daily strive to grow in wisdom and learning? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!"

**We will, and we ask God to help us!**

Teachers and everyone who is part of our educational system, will you help our students learn, grow, and become wise? Will you help them not only to follow, but prepare them to lead? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!"

**We will, and we ask God to help us!**

Students, and all who have been called to help educate them, will you trust in God and pray for one another, and ask the Lord to show you new opportunities as well as warn you of new dangers? If so, please say, "We will, and we ask God to help us."

**We will, and we ask God to help us!**

Please place your backpacks, tablets, and school supplies on this table.

Let us pray. Bless these backpacks, tablets, and school supplies that help our students to learn, O Lord. Bless our students as they return to their studies to daily learn, grow in knowledge and become wise. Bless our teachers in school or in the home and bless all those who support them. Bless all parents, grandparents and all caregivers who love, nurture, and guide our young people.

Help to daily pray for our students, for their teachers, and for parents and guardians. Give wisdom to all our leaders and help them to work together for the good of all your people. Protect those who risk their health for the safety of the sake of others.

Finally, teach us to love one another as you continue to love us – in church, at home, at work, and especially, O Lord, in school. We bless and pray in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read in Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Strengthen them to proclaim the gospel of peace and freedom. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Teach your people to be good stewards of all that you have made. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Bless all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new marriage, new job, a new school year, or a new community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of strength, bless all those who protect us from COVID-19 and all who strive to bring healing to those who suffer from this terrible virus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer especially everyone on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we give you thanks for all the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



*(The Pastor concludes):* Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

"Trumpet Tune"

M. McCabe

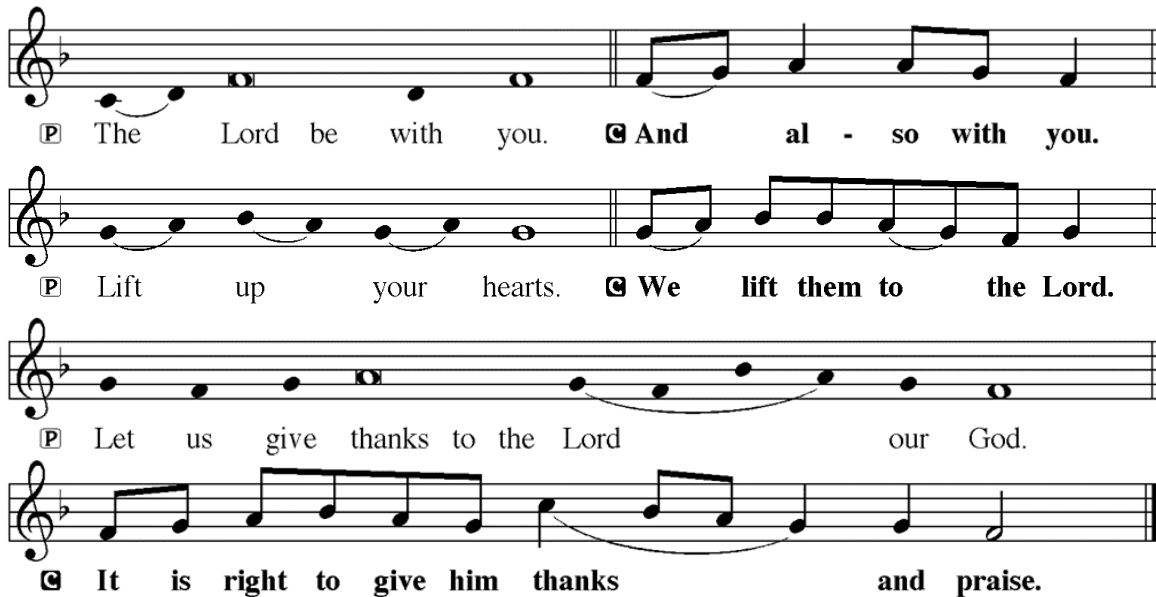
## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

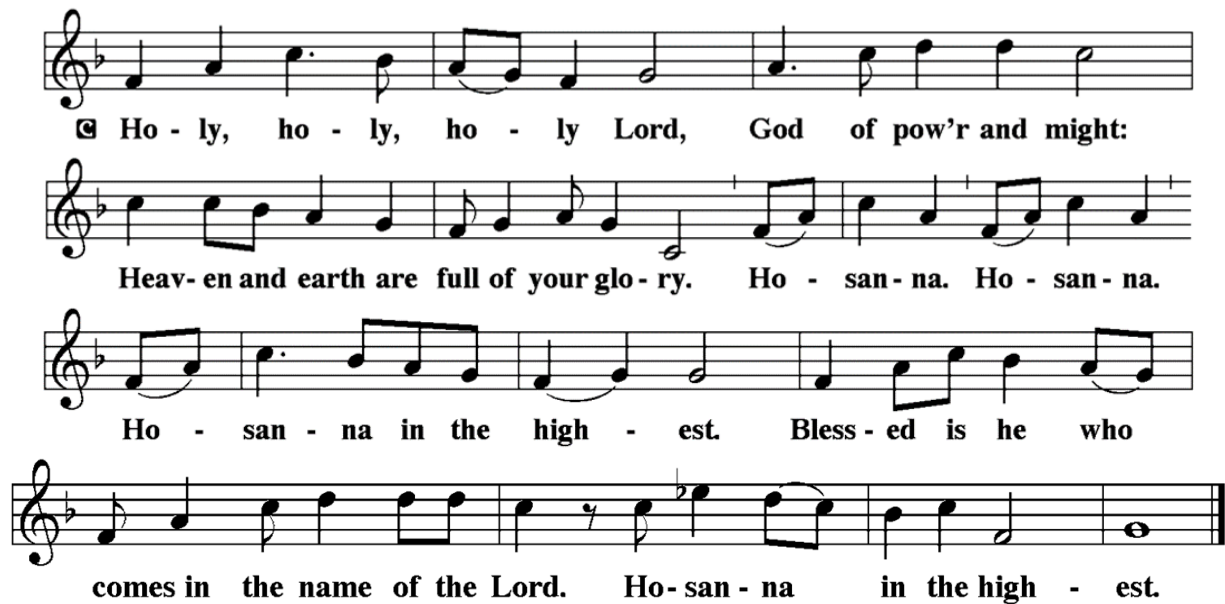
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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; 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 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us  
through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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**

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.

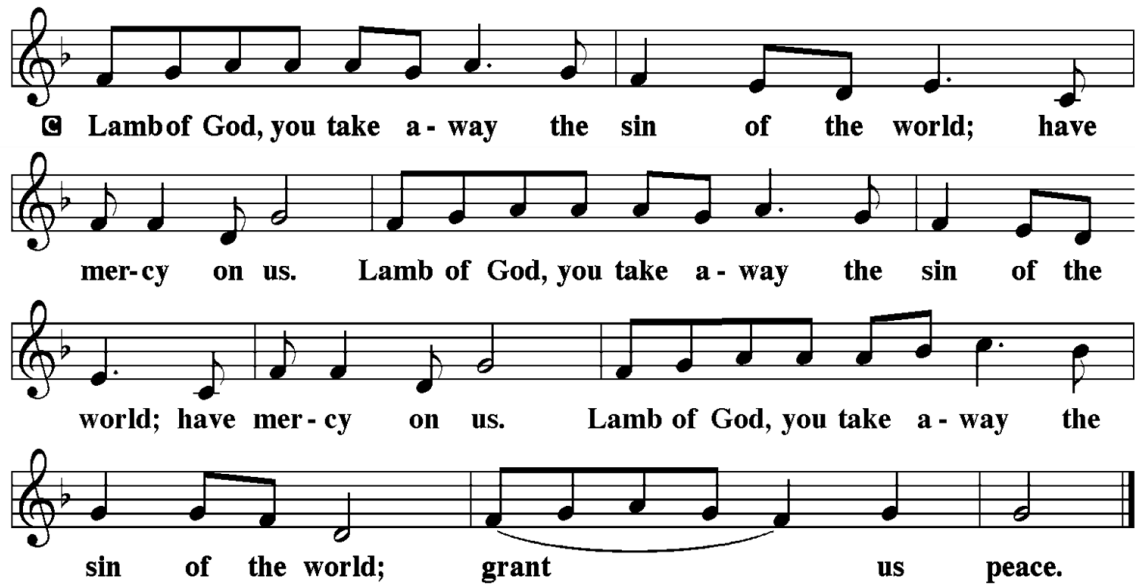
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set this table. There is heavenly food and drink for all. Come and be filled with new life!

## ***INSTRUCTIONS***

*If you wish to receive the Sacrament, please move into the center aisle when instructed to do so. When you stand before the Pastor, please open your hand to receive a wafer of bread, and then move toward the Communion Assistant to dip the tip of the wafer into the chalice of wine. After you have eaten the wafer, you may return to your seat by the side aisle. Those unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament may receive in their pews. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please stand before the Pastor and say, "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 “Let Us Break Bread Together” [See back of bulletin]

### TABLE BLESSING

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world as you love the world. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” [See back of bulletin]

### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Fill His Courts with Praise"

E. Van Woert

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**Bulletins** are presented in honor of my brother and sisters and their spouses – Bill and Cindy Moyer, Sandra and Scott Ludwig, and Fern and Rodney Houser by Deb Moyer.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in honor of my daughter, Crystal Brensinger, on her birthday, by her mother, Nancy Kaiser.

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**Introduction to the day:** Apparently not satisfied by Jesus’ feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John’s gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

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**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (8/22/21)**

**9:30 AM**

LECTOR: Leslie Guldin; GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Swick Family

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Madelyn Knecht

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/29/21)**

**9:30 AM**

LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky; GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Chris Long

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Reier

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

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**COOKBOOKS ON SALE!**

St. Paul’s cookbooks are now for sale at \$7.00 each. Please contact Connie Teter or call Juli Schenck at the church office (570-366-2316) if you’d like to purchase one!

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, August 22	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion and our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks and Connect" Event
Monday, August 23	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Thursday, August 26	5:30 PM	STiC "Painting Party"
Friday, August 27	9:30 AM	STiC SRT Sojourn in Tumbling Run
	5:30 PM	STiC "Painting Party"
Saturday, August 28	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, August 29	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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**"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS"**

On Sunday, September 12 at the 10:30 a.m. service, representatives from our Evangelism Committee will present Victoria Spittler, Case Manager at the Opportunity House in Pottsville, PA with donations collected to help the homeless or needy veterans and their families. This is our "God's Work. Our Hands." project for 2021.

The following items are requested: shampoo and conditioner, body soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, hand lotion, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors, and new or lightly used blankets and towels. Donations may be placed in a box located in the narthex.

Thank you for giving back to our community!

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**OPPORTUNITY TO BE CREATIVE!**

STiC will host a "Painting Party" at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 26 & Friday, August 27 with a possible follow up on morning of Saturday, August 28. We will make coasters or paperweights from old bathroom tiles. "Plant More Natives" stickers will be added and then ...the fun! Brushes, sponges, fingers will add colorful touches. Please invite children!!! Once our projects dry, we'll spray seal them and glue felt or foam to the back....and then they'll be available as a STiC fundraiser at Heritage Days. Planting native plants helps to fight invasive species which damage our ecosystem. Let's encourage our neighbors to "plant more natives!" Please call Sue Reier (570-617-3741) for more information.

# COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together"

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

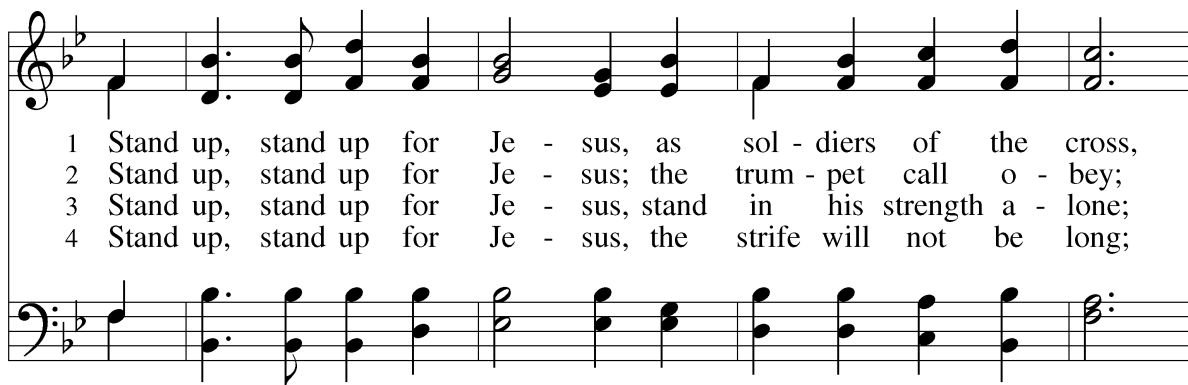
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HERITAGE DAY!

St. Paul's will participate in Heritage Day in Orwigsburg on Saturday, September 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. STiC will sell water bottles and Evangelism will sell our cookbooks. We will also tell visitors about our church, our music program, and our ministry. Please sign up for a 2-hour time slot from the 9:30 a.m. set up to 3:30 p.m. take down. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for your convenience.

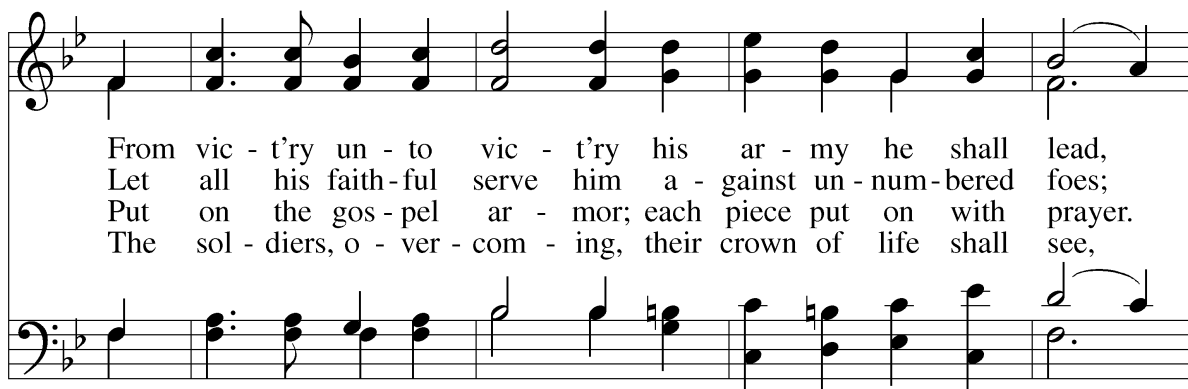
# SENDING HYMN "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"



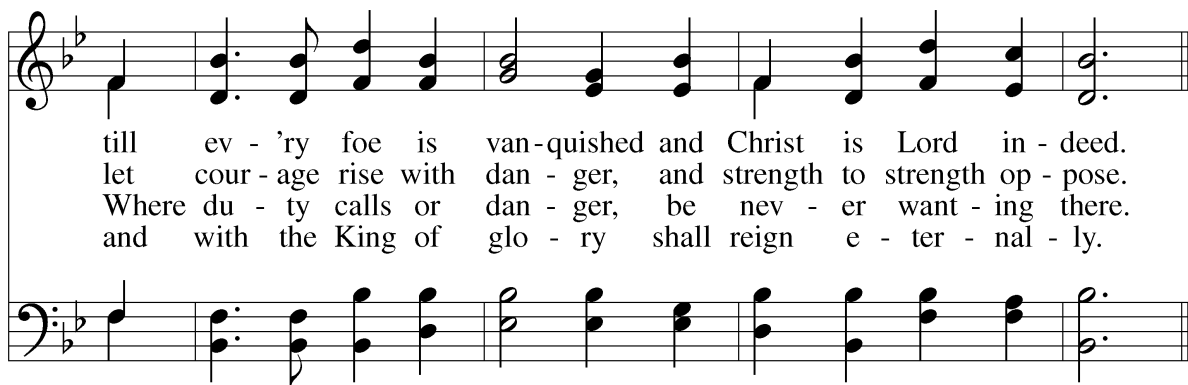
1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, as sol - diers of the cross,  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone;  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;



lift high his roy - al ban - ner; it must not suf - fer loss.  
stand forth in might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day.  
the arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.  
this day the din of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,  
Let all his faith - ful serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
Put on the gos - pel ar - mor; each piece put on with prayer.  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, their crown of life shall see,



till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.  
let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.  
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.  
and with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.