

# *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, September 5, 2021*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

"Prayer of Faith"

D. Wagner

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sins to the One who is the source of all mercy.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Almighty God,

**we have wandered from our Good Shepherd and have gone astray.**

**We have turned up our noses at those who are broken or different.**

**We have snatched what is best from your creation and kept it for ourselves.**

**We have ignored your command to love others as you love us.**

**Though we are worthy to be punished, we ask for your forgiveness.**

**Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and make us into a new creation.**

God is abundant in mercy and forgives all who repent of their sins.

Trust in God's amazing grace and believe that your sins are forgiven through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## “Praise to the Lord”

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## 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

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people always ready to proclaim your promises, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### A Reading from Isaiah

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water. (Isaiah 35:4-7a)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 146 (Read responsively)**

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!

## A Reading from James

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

(James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17)

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. Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." (Mark 7:24-37)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Amazing Grace"  
[See back of bulletin]

## **SERMON**

### **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.*

Holy One, enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of all people. As we celebrate Labor Day, help us to promote the health, safety, and dignity of every human being. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died in faith and bring them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in the hope of one day joining them. 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

"How Great Thou Art"

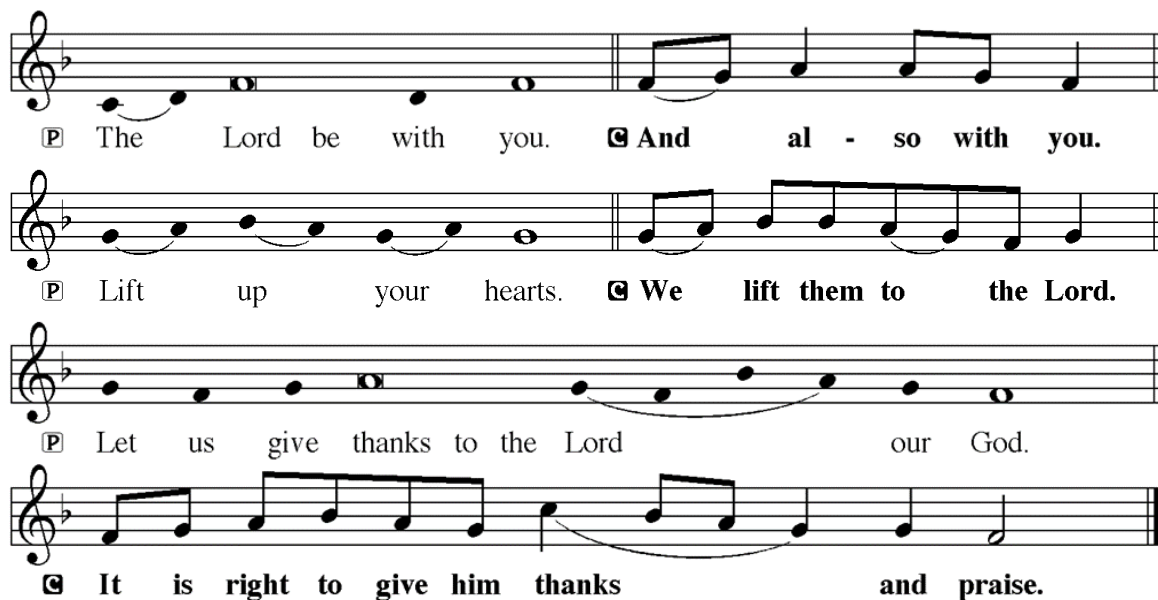
M. McDonald

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives that the world which you so dearly love may be nourished, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

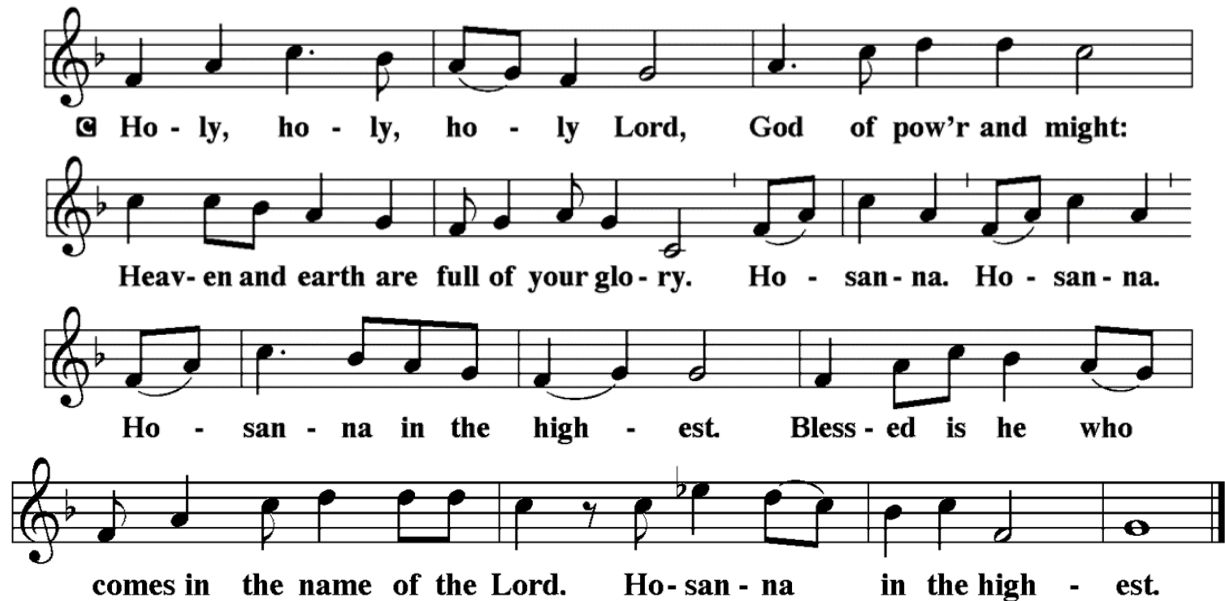
Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Ⓞ 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

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us  
and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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

Come, all who hunger and thirst for food from heaven. All has been made ready.

### 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

## “Spirit of God”

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

“O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”

[See back of bulletin]

### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

"March in G"

G. F. Handel

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Altar flowers** are presented in memory of loved ones by Diane Brobst.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Introduction to the day:** James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (9/5/21)**

**9:30 AM**

LECTOR: Doug Travor; GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Karen Travor

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Tom Wehr, Gwen Wehr, and Glenda Bright

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/12/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Tina Butler; GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Joyce O'Rourke

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Sunday, September 5                      9:30 AM    Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, September 6                      Labor Day Holiday  
Church Office is closed!

Tuesday, September 7                      7:00 PM    Social Media

Wednesday, September 8                      5:00 PM    STiC  
7:00 PM    Chancel Choir

Friday, September 10                      9:30 AM    STiC Sojourn in Auburn, PA

Saturday, September 11    10 AM - 3 PM    "Heritage Day "in Orwigsburg  
5:30 PM    Worship

Sunday, September 12                      8:00 AM    Worship with Holy Communion  
10:30 AM    Worship with Holy Communion  
"God's Work. Our Hands."

\*\*\*\*\*

**GOOD WORDS TO REMEMBER!**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

## **“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”**

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

The following items are still needed: 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!

## **REGULAR WORSHIP RETURNS**

Next Sunday, September 12, we will return to our regular worship schedule. Services will be held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be shared on the first Saturday of each month and at every Sunday service.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

Following our 10:30 a.m. service at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, September 19, the Evangelism Committee will host our annual Church Picnic. Beverages and hot dogs will be provided. Covered-dish items to share are appreciated. Bring a lawn chair and join us for food, fellowship, and fun. Plan to enjoy a few games of Bingo following the meal. Donations of bingo prizes would be appreciated!

Please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the gathering place or call our church office so we have an idea how many hot dogs and drinks will be needed.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MAESTRO**

Our Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. We perform our musical offerings at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services. Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. **NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!!!**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## “Amazing Grace”

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

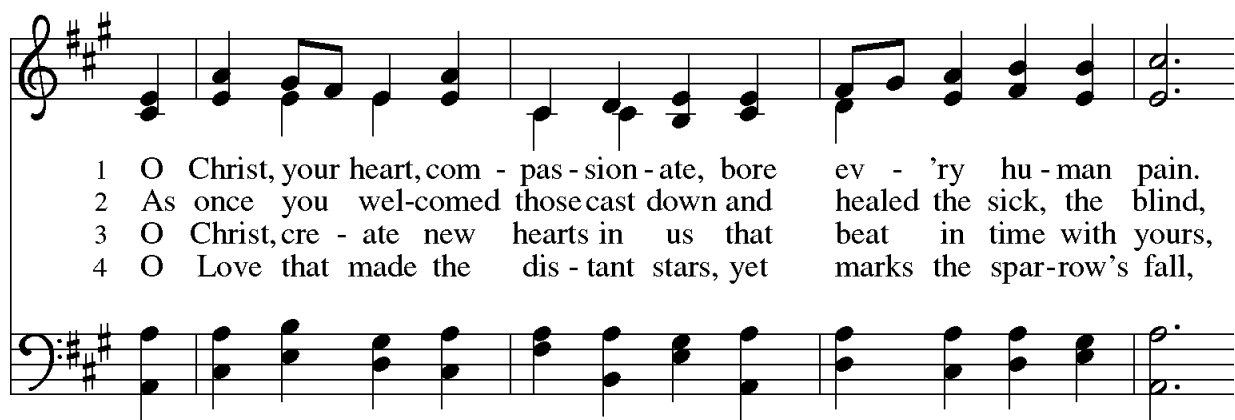
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

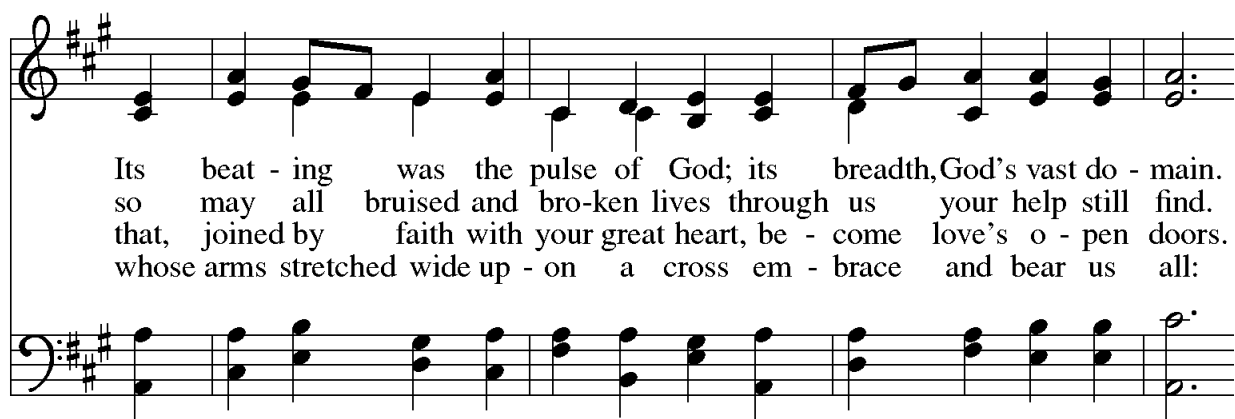
### MEN OF ST. PAUL'S NEWS

The Men's Group will be collecting "name brand" 1 lb. boxes of dry spaghetti and 24 oz. jars or cans of plain spaghetti sauce to match beginning in September. Our goal is to have one of each to hand out to every family that comes to the Food Pantry in October. Your help is always greatly appreciated!

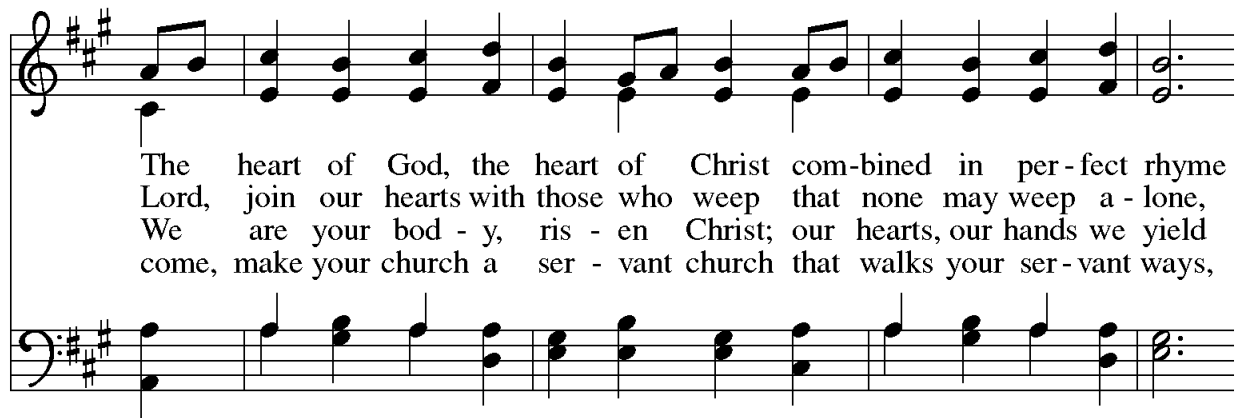
# SENDING HYMN "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"



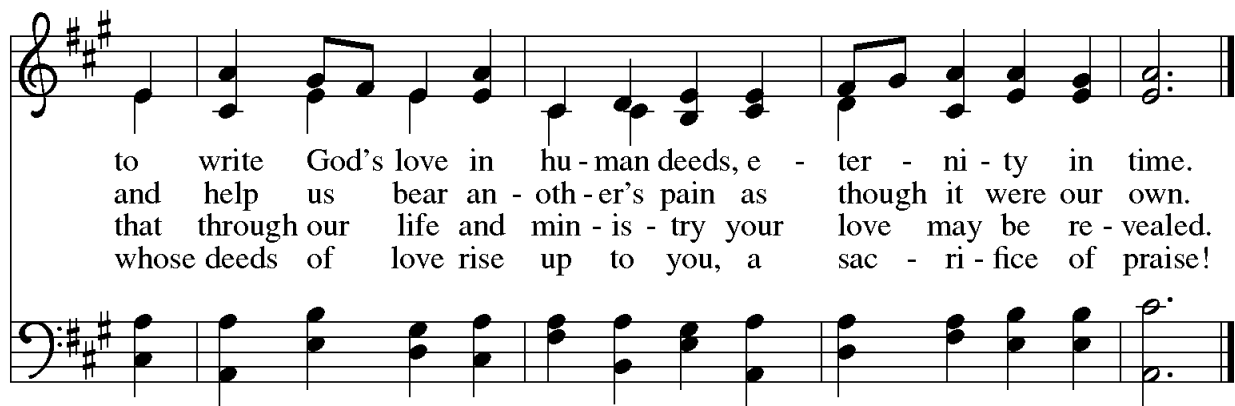
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!