

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 29, 2023

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Song of Hope"

R. Schram

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
who makes all things new, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O Holy One,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin and cannot free ourselves.

Our feet have not followed in your path and

our hearts have turned away from you.

Forgive us that we may be reconciled to you and one another

and teach us to walk in the light of your grace. Amen.

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.**

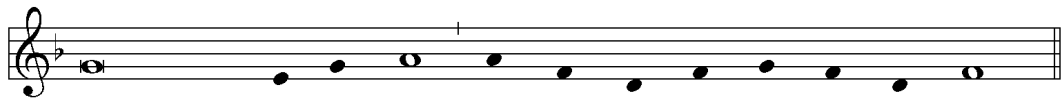
GATHERING HYMN "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

[See back of bulletin]

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



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



♩ 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

Holy God, you give your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM MICAH

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:1-8)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15 (Read responsively)

¹O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

²**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

³who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
**⁴in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**
⁵who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

A READING FROM FIRST CORINTHIANS

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

(1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

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. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

(Matthew 5:1-12)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

[See back of bulletin]

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

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

A brief silence.

Cultivate humility in your church and teach us to boast only in the cross of Christ. Shape and form your church to be a people who are kind, generous, and just.

Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Creation bears witness to your faithfulness and holiness. When we abuse your creation, show us the error of our ways and inspire us to honor all that you have made. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Raise up leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking and prosper the work of peacemakers.

Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bring health and healing to all in need. Comfort and protect all who face violence or suffer in any way. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Remind this congregation of how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for faithful men and women in every time and place. As you abided with them in every trial, abide with your people now and in the future. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM)

"Prayer"

T. Davis

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

"Seek Ye First"

L. Larson

OFFERTORY HYMN "Let the Vineyards be fruitful, Lord"

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

P 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. 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.

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 (Read 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,

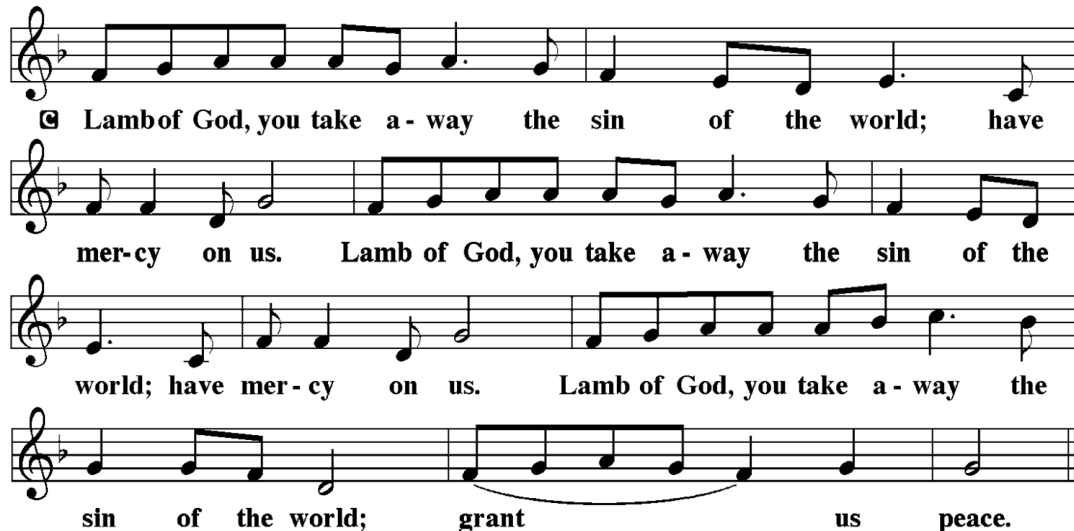
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

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

“Be Thou My Vision”
[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

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"The Rejoicing"

C. Callahan

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

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Guy R. and Frances Lengel, G. Roger and Jack Lengel, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Duke Schenck's birthday, January 30th, by Sue, Kurt, and Juli.

Introduction to the Day: Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, January 29	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday
Wednesday, February 1	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, February 4	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, February 5	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us on Sunday, February 12th, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship.

You can also call/text/email me with questions or to volunteer. Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (1/29/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER/USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Gwen Wehr; LECTOR: Becky Smoot

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Bill Smoot

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (2/05/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER/USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Cindy Ritschel; LECTOR: Gwen Wehr

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Greg Sklar

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 12, 2023, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. In case of inclement weather, our annual meeting will be held on the following Sunday, February 19. Members should mark their new calendars for this important meeting!

OPEN POSITIONS ON CHURCH COUNCIL

During our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023, we will vote to fill several open positions on our Church Council. If you are an active member and would like to learn more, please contact Council President Doug Travor, any Council member, or Pastor Mike.

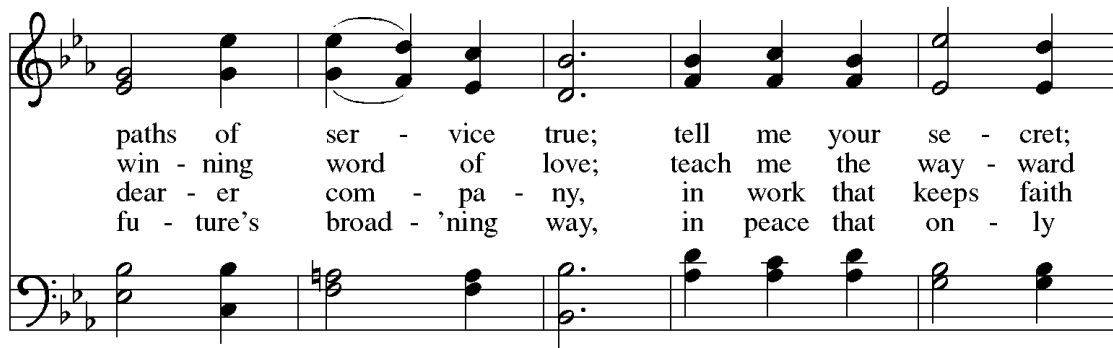
CHILI & SOUP-ER BOWL SALE

The Men of St. Paul's will host a Chili & Soup-er Bowl Soup Sale on Saturday, February 11, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square." Our soup will be \$7/quart or 3 quarts for \$20 and chili will be \$8/quart or 2 quarts for \$15. Come for great chili, tasty homemade soups, and many delicious baked goods.

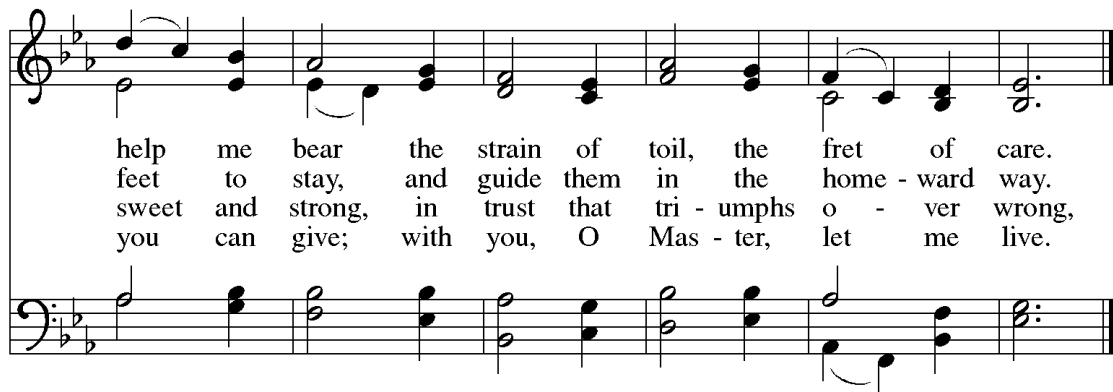
GATHERING HYMN “O Master, Let Me Walk with You”



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

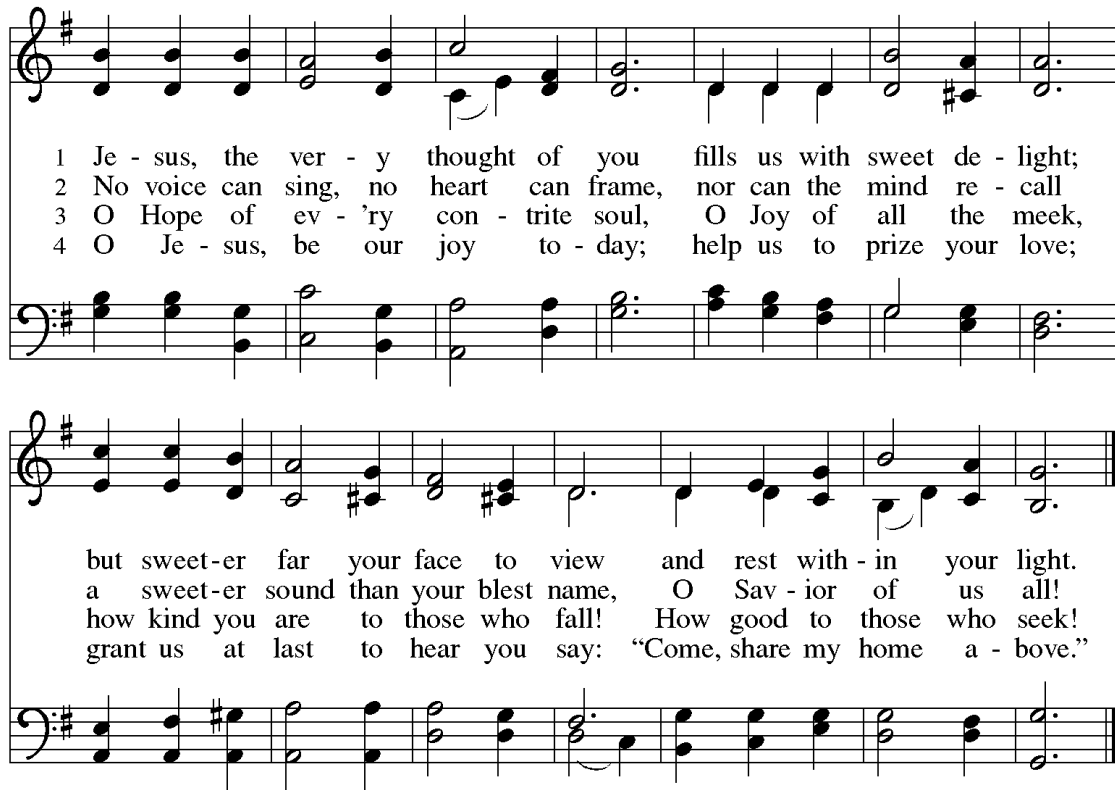
WELCA

All women of St. Paul's: please attend our Tuesday, February 14th meeting at 1:00 p.m.at church. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same time and place on Thursday, February 16th. This will be a planning session for our hosting of the WELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring event to be held at our Church on Saturday, April 29th.

Your December In-Gathering offering will be accepted at this time. These funds have been designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief for Florida Hurricane 2022.

Please watch your bulletins for any necessary changes or updates.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, the Very Thought of You”



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: “Come, share my home a - bove.”

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Members are invited to pick up and review our 2022 Annual Report PRIOR to our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Reports are now available in the narthex.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND ARTISANS

St. Paul’s has established a crafting guild that will make items to sell at local community fairs and events as a new outreach program and an opportunity for fellowship. All proceeds from the sale of craft items will go to support St. Paul’s ministries.

Current crafters or anyone interested in learning a new craft is invited to take part. If you would like more information, please sign the interest sheet or contact Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816)

COMMUNION HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



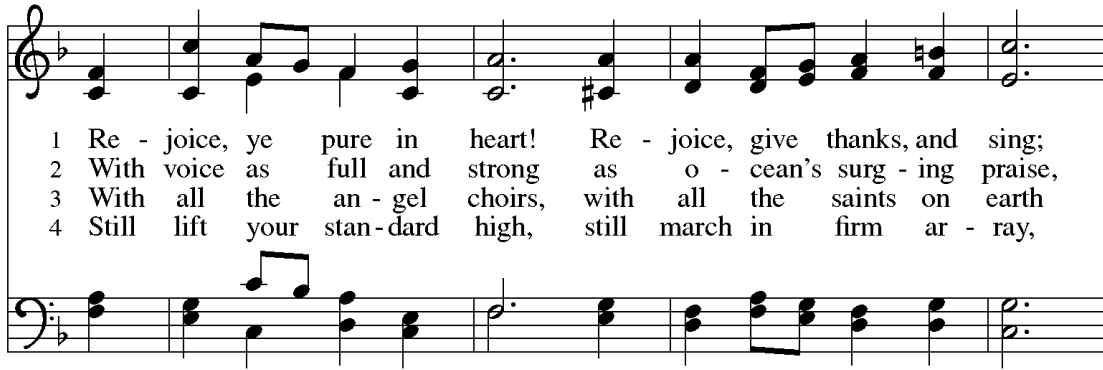
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

STIC NEWS

Handmade Valentine Day cards for our homebound members are now located in the gathering room. You may read and sign them at your convenience. There will also be a 'workshop' on propagating succulent plants on Saturday February 18 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited.

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”




1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Re - joice! Re - joice!

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*