

# *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, June 25, 2023*

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

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sins, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us - from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**      “O Jesus, I Have Promised”  
[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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Teach us, Lord God, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A READING FROM JEREMIAH**

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends

are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

(Jeremiah 20:7-13)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 69:7-12, 16-18** (Read responsively)

<sup>7</sup>It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that shame has covered my face.

**<sup>8</sup>I have become a stranger to my kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

**<sup>10</sup>When I humbled my soul with fasting,  
they insulted me for doing so.**

<sup>11</sup>When I made sackcloth my clothing,  
I became a byword to them.

**<sup>12</sup>I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

**<sup>17</sup>Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress — make haste to answer me.**

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me, redeem me,  
set me free because of my enemies.

## A READING FROM ROMANS

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 6:1b-11)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

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

*Optional Repeat*

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

<sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:24-39)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “Take My Life, That I May Be”  
[See back of bulletin]

### **THE APOSTLES’ CREED** (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**

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unblock our ears so that we may learn from one another and grow in understanding. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew places which are ill and suffering. Direct the work of all who care for your creatures and their habitats. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain and protect all who work to defend the weak across the world. Strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands face violence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You promise to comfort all those who are unjustly imprisoned. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are victims of bigotry and hatred. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the source of healing and wholeness. Abide with all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit and give them the gift of new and abundant life. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and eternal God, we give thanks for those who have died in faith. Help us to follow in your path until one day you call us to walk with them in newness of life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.


**And also with you.**

# OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY HYMN “As Grains of Wheat”

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

## 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

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

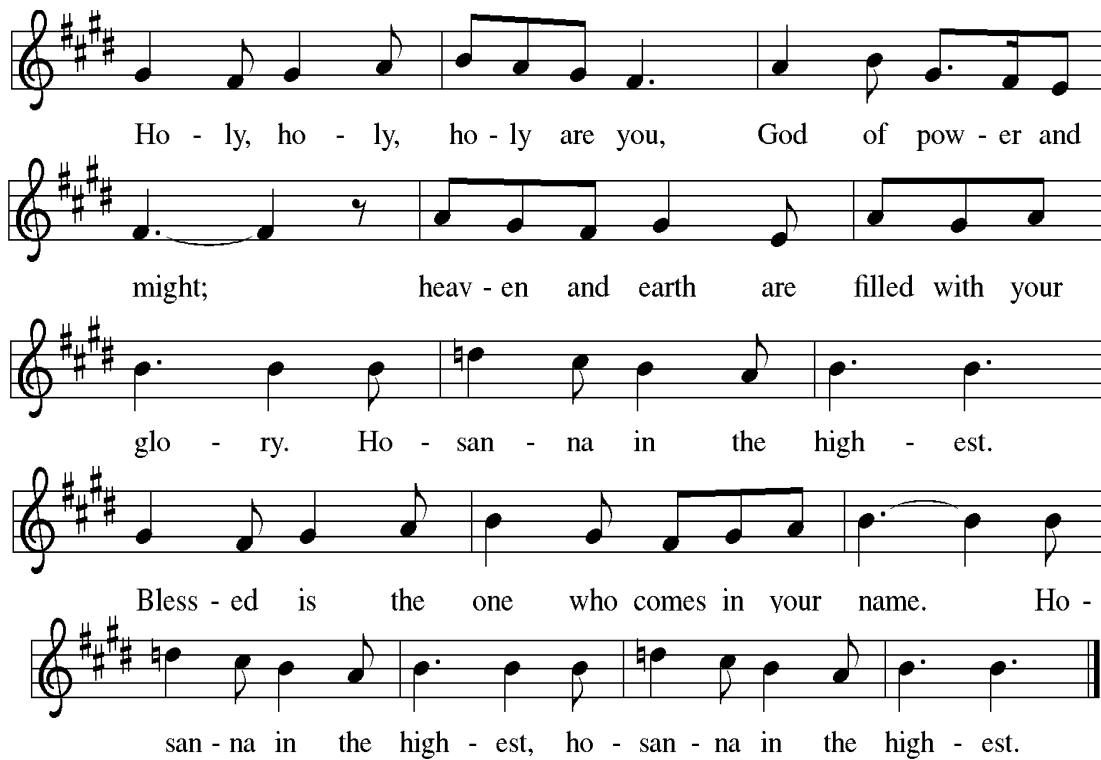
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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 are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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 (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.\

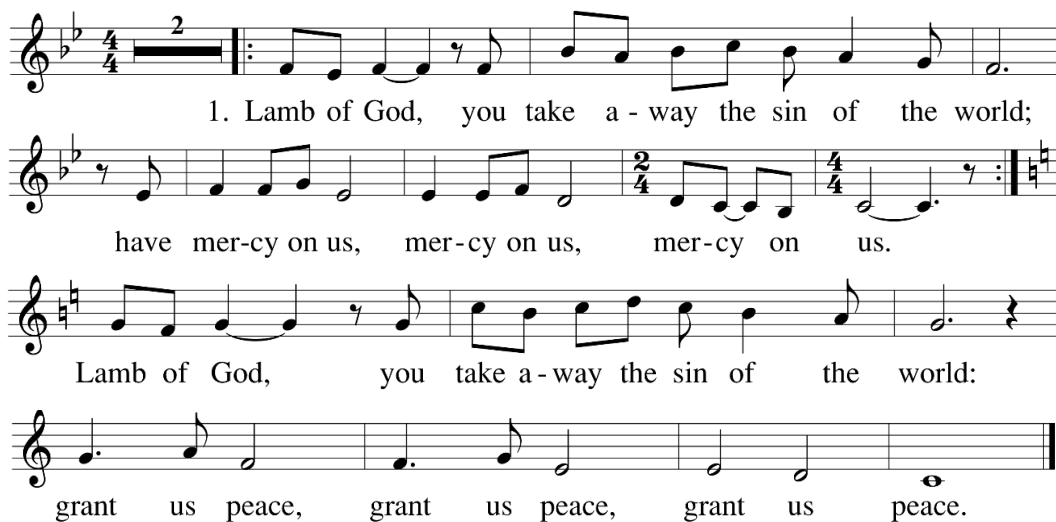
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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 should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will be communed as they sit in their pew.*

## AGNUS DEI



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me"

[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**

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our 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**

“Lift High the Cross”

[See back of bulletin]

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**Introduction to the Day:** God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God’s grace and love make us a new creation each day. And so, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ alive in the world.

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**Altar flowers** are presented in honor of Isabella and Xavier by their grandmother.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (on June 28<sup>th</sup>) by Jim and Joanne Emerich.

**Bulletins** are presented in loving memory of Russell Zehner by Sonny & Connie Teter.

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**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (6/25/23)**

**9:30 AM**

GREETER: Sarah Eger; USHER: Gloria Dierwechter; LECTOR: Tina Butler

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (7/02/23)**

**9:30 AM**

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Kristin Durkee

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Evan Davis

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Tom Wehr, Gwen Wehr, and Glenda Bright

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

Sunday, June 25	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Snacks and Games following worship
Friday, June 30	10:00 AM	STiC SRT Walk in Landingville
Saturday, July 1	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 2	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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**SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TABLE**

Committees, groups, families, or individuals can sponsor a table to provide light refreshments for a fellowship hour following the 9:30 a.m. worship service during the summer months. Please consider sponsoring a fellowship table. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room.

**LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?**

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our monthly newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better! We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!

## **JOIN US FOR SNACKS AND GAMES**

Our Sunday School's first summer activity will take place TODAY following our worship service. Children and adults are invited to play board games while they snack at our summer fellowship table. Sunday School will be provided during our worship service for children that attend. Please stay for snacks and games!

## **WELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Attention all women of St. Paul's: An exciting opportunity is available to you. The WELCA Triennial Convention is meeting in Phoenix, AZ, on September 21-24, 2023, and you can attend! Most of the costs for this event will be underwritten and we hope two women from our congregation will be able to attend.

Watch for additional details regarding registration, etc., in our church bulletin, and check the WELCA.org website for more information about the Triennial. You may also indicate your interest to any member of WELCA.

## **GWOH 2023**

This year's "God's Work. Our Hands." project will support "Servants to All – My Father's house" located in Pottsville, PA. "Servants to All" is a faith-based program and homeless services provider that offers emergency shelter, homeless prevention, street outreach, case management, and supportive services to those in need in Schuylkill and the surrounding counties. They provide necessities such as food, clothing, and hygiene products to community members in need, and there are no fees for any services provided.

Donations requested include:

Hygiene Items - tampons/feminine pads, toothbrushes and toothpastes, deodorant, soap, wet wipes, disposable razors, lotions, and bath towels and washcloths (new or almost new).

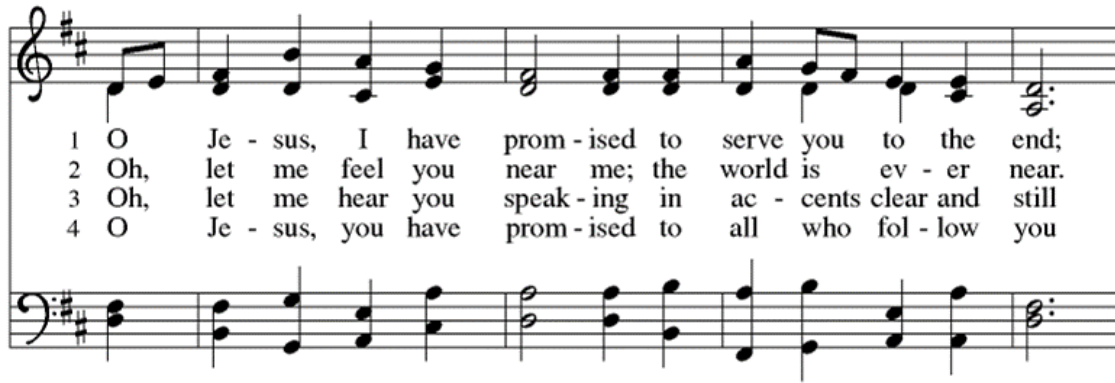
Bedding - Bed linens (twin or full-sized sheet sets), blankets, pillows, and pillowcases (new or almost new).

Cleaning Items - All-purpose cleaners, laundry detergents, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, mops, brooms, and buckets.

A box will be placed in the narthex for your donations.

We will begin collecting items on July 1 and continue through August 31. "God's Work. Our Hands," Sunday is set for September 10, 2023.

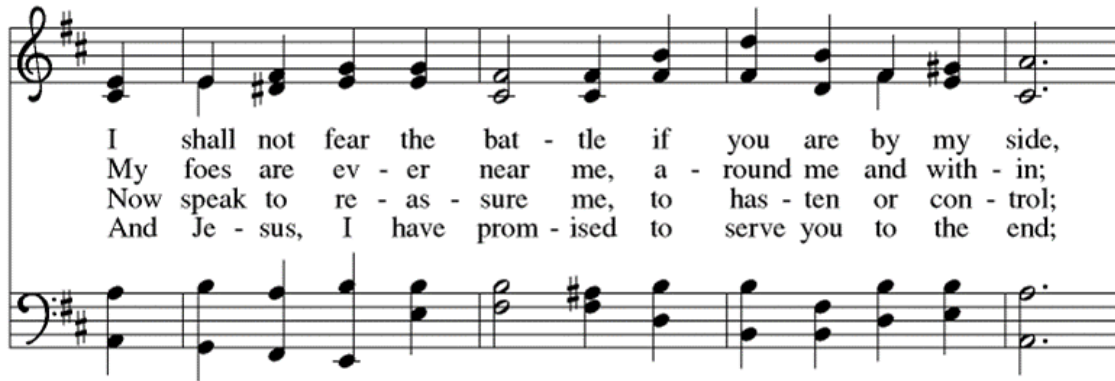
# GATHERING HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised"



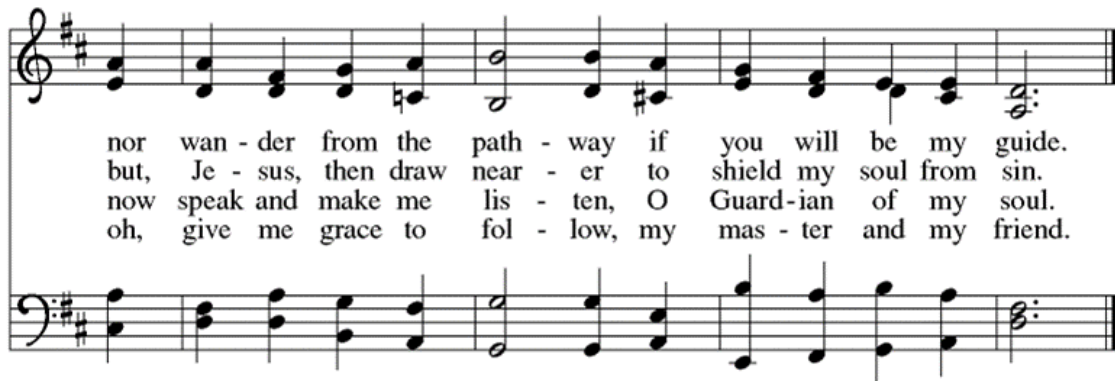
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

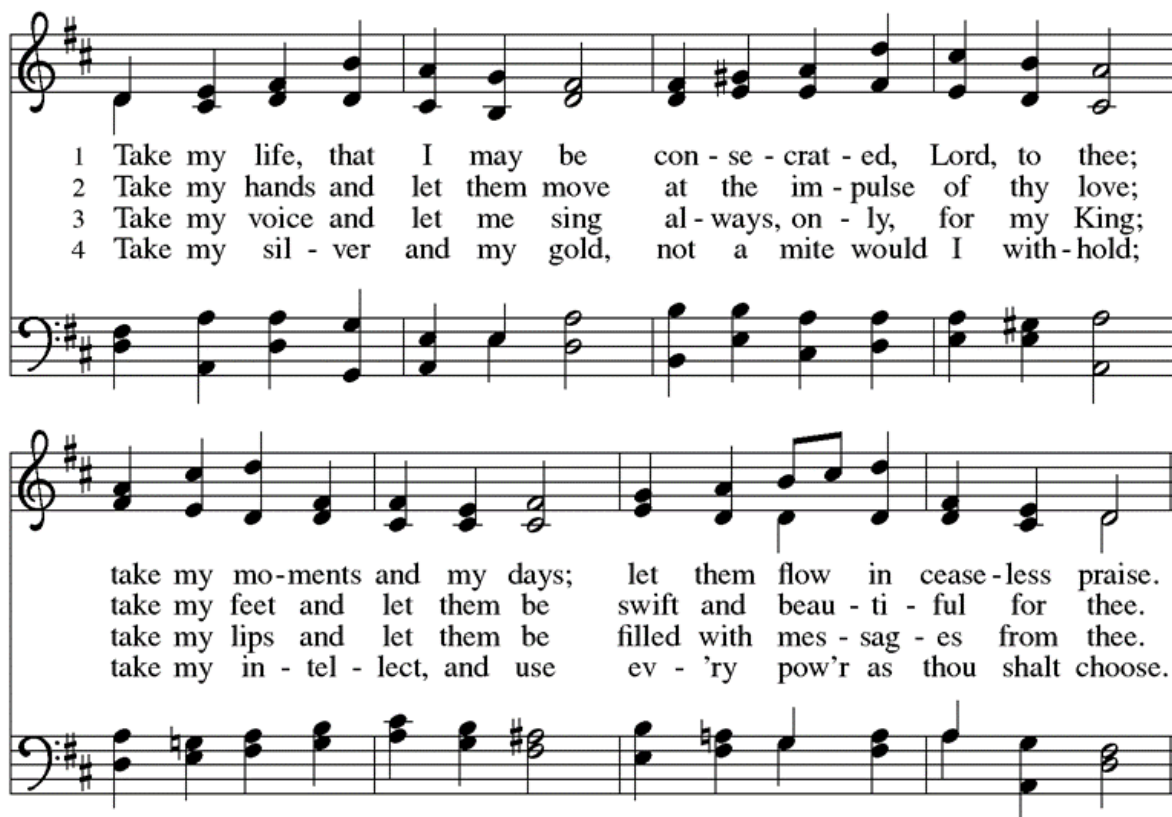


I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Take My Life, That I May Be”



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## WALKING TO BETHLEHEM

Help us achieve the equivalent number of miles as if we walked right across the ocean to Bethlehem! St. John's, Salem, and St. Paul's are joining forces to make this happen this summer. "Walking Diaries" are available in the Gathering Room at our small display. Please bring them with you when you come to worship so that we can calculate our congregation's progress towards the final goal.

Special outings for families (parents must accompany children) and anyone who wants to join have also been planned. These activities will yield **DOUBLE POINTS** (miles). All events are "rain or shine" and scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Our next event is on Saturday, July 15 – the Schuylkill River Trail. We will meet at the trailhead on PA 895. This one mile walk on an easy flat trail allows views of the Schuylkill River, some remnants of the canal, and wonderful "middle earth" landscape. There will also be a nature scavenger hunt that adults and kids will enjoy.

Want more information? Please contact our coordinator, Sue Reier

# COMMUNION HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me"



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



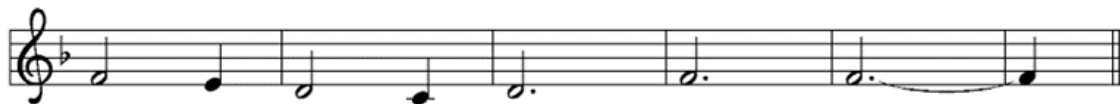
know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.



# SENDING HYMN

## “Lift High the Cross”

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	<a href="mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com">cwlutsey@gmail.com</a>
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