

# *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, August 20, 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**

“It Is Well With My Soul”  
Pat Kunkle and Justin McClure, piano duet

S. Wilson

#### **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** “Oh, for A Thousand Tongues to Sing”  
[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**

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

(Isaiah 56:1, 6-8)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 67 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,

<sup>2</sup>**that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
 for you judge the peoples with equity  
 and guide the nations upon earth.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>6</sup>**The earth has yielded its increase;  
 God, our God, has blessed us.**  
<sup>7</sup>May God continue to bless us;  
 let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### A READING FROM ROMANS

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

(Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32)

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.**

<sup>10</sup>[[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

(Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”  
[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**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stop fires which are out of control, clean polluted water and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all leaders to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support free and fair elections, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and bring healing to the sick. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, or retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry and protect travelers and those far from home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all the saints who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

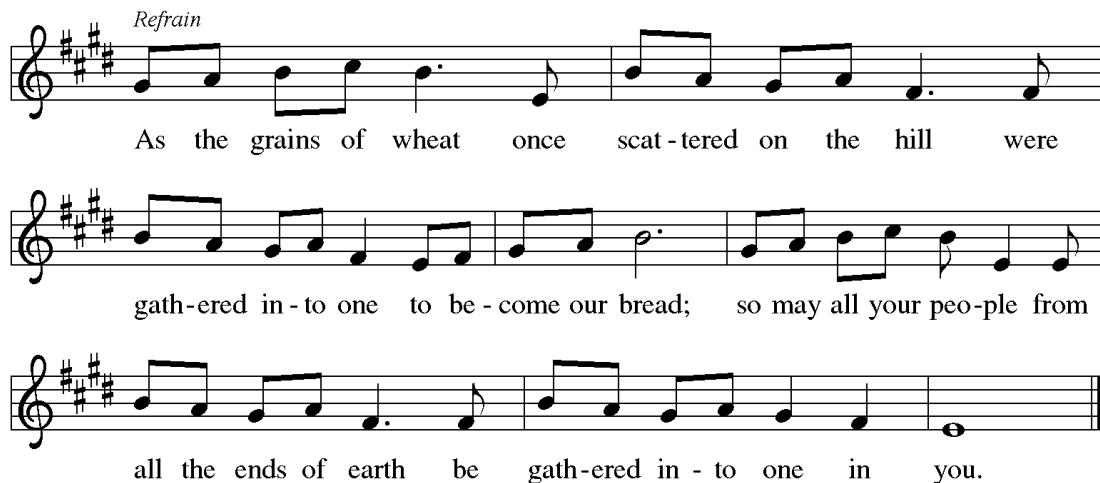
“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”  
Pat Kunkle and Justin McClure, piano duet

J. Carter

### 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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.' The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.

### 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.

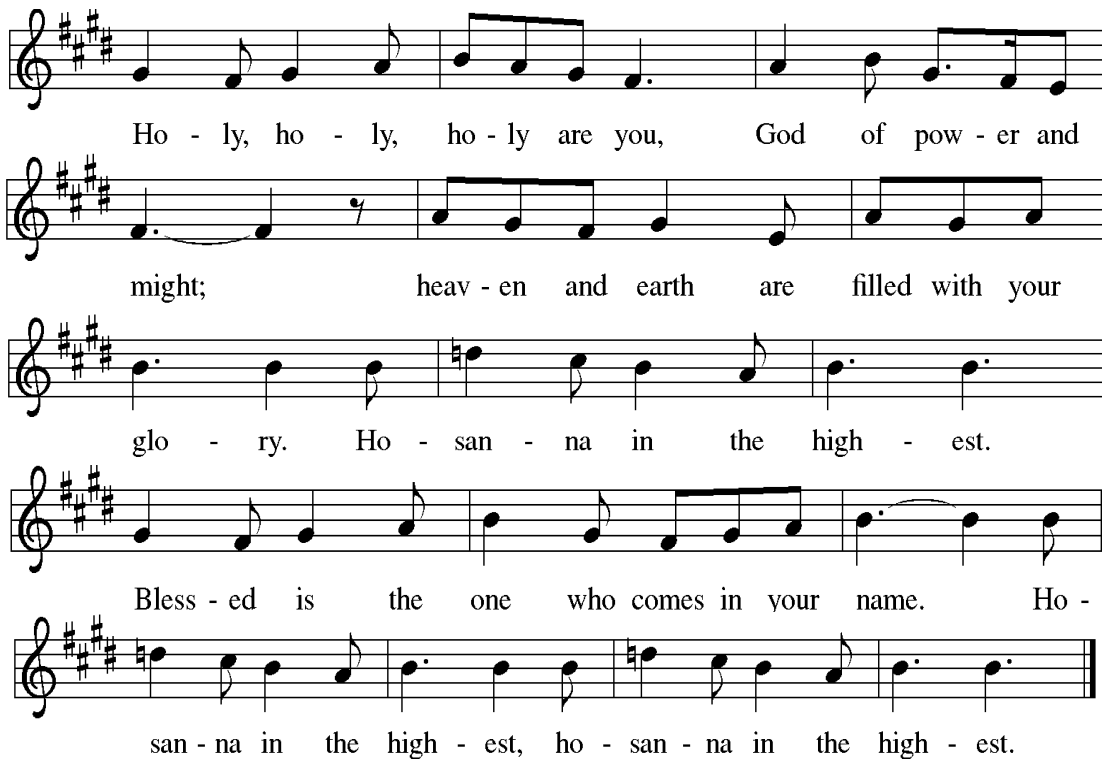
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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.



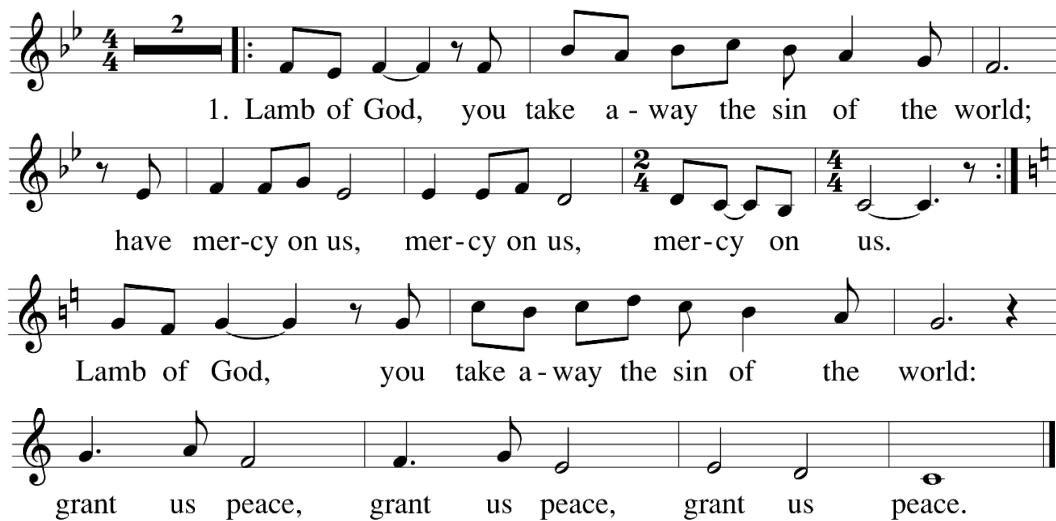
## **INSTRUCTIONS**

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. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

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 receive it 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** "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" [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** “O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate”  
[See back of bulletin]

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

“Lord of Life”

T. Kendall

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**Introduction to the Day** In Isaiah we hear that God’s house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today’s gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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**Altar flowers** are presented in celebration and thankfulness on our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Rob and Sue Reier

**Bulletins** are presented in loving memory of Kenneth, Sr., and Miriam Miller, by Tom and Gwen Wehr

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**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (8/20/23)**

**9:30 AM**

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Wendy Schuld; LECTOR: Sue Schenck

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tom Wehr

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Joyce O’Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/27/23)**

**9:30 AM**

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Eric Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cindy Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O’Rourke and Jean Premich

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

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**W&M MEETING RESCHEDULED**

The Worship and Music meeting scheduled for Monday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m., has been rescheduled for Monday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, August 20	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, August 21	6:30 PM	Worship & Music
Friday, August 25	10:00 AM	STiC SRT Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, August 26	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, August 27	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Blessing of the Back Packs

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### 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 your diary with you when you come to worship so that we can calculate our congregation's progress towards the final goal.

Your coordinator, Sue Reier

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

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.

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 has been placed in the narthex for donations. We will collect items through August 31, 2023. "God's Work. Our Hands," Sunday is set for September 10, 2023.

## GATHERING HYMN: "Oh, for A Thousand Tongues to Sing"



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

### 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!

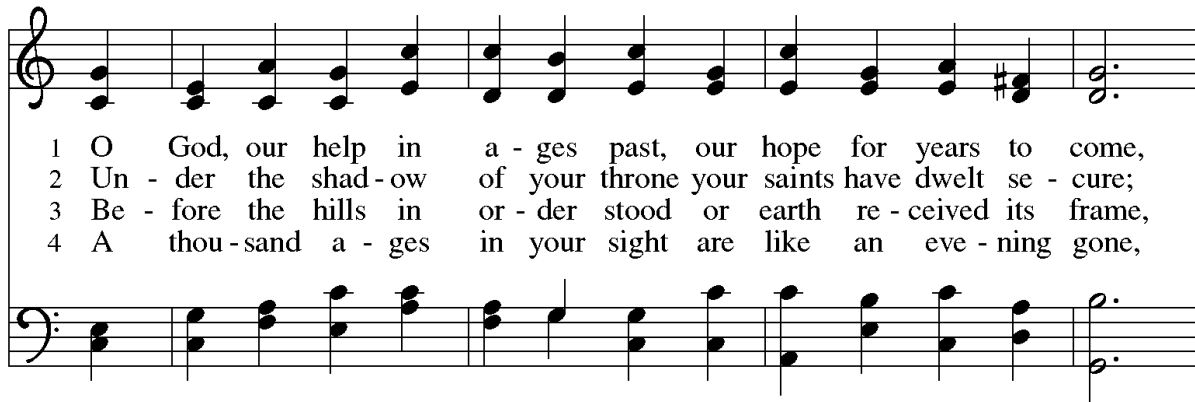
### SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

The "Blessing of the Backpacks" will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Teachers, students, and school staff are welcome! Please bring bookbags, devices, etc. to be blessed in hope of a wonderful 2023-24 academic year!

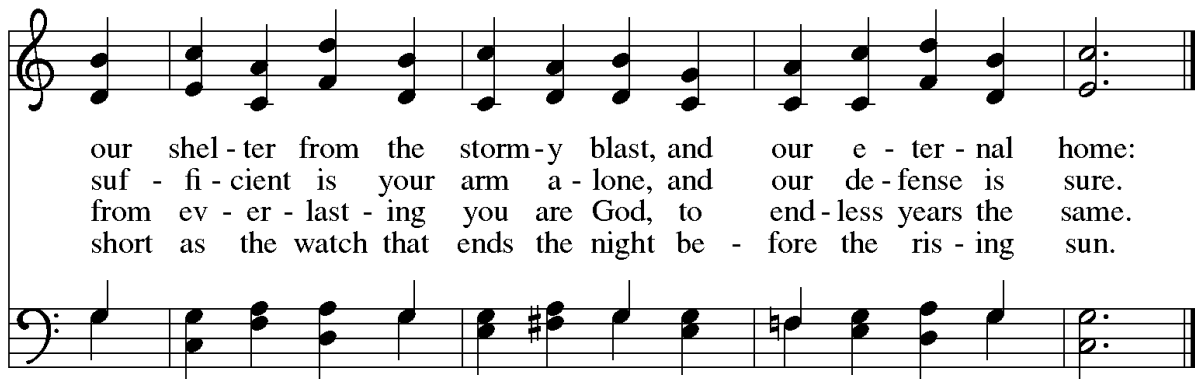
### OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Following our 10:30 a.m. service at the church on Sunday, September 24, we will hold our annual Church Picnic at Albright's Woods Pavilion. Please mark your calendars!

# HYMN OF THE DAY “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

## PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Mike is on vacation. In his absence, we are again pleased to welcome Pastor Rob Reier of Pottsville, PA, who will lead our worship at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 19 and Pastor Dave Rowe of Oley, PA, who will lead our worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

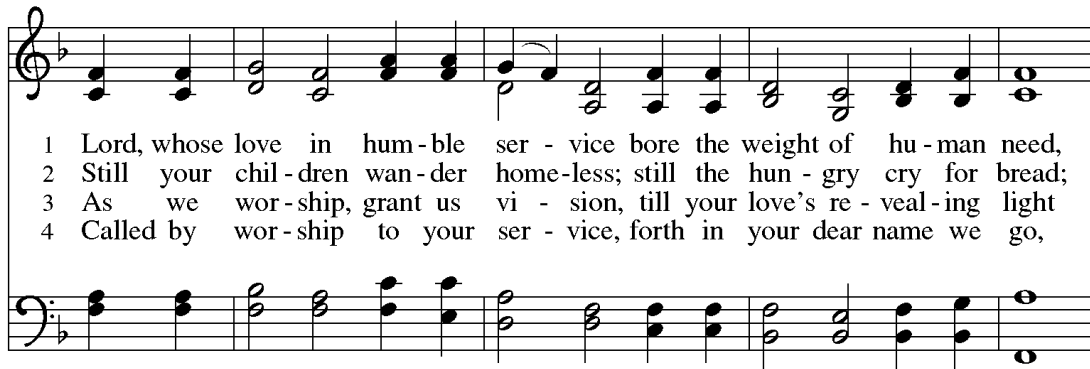
Please welcome Pastors Reier and Rowe as they come to share the gospel with us!

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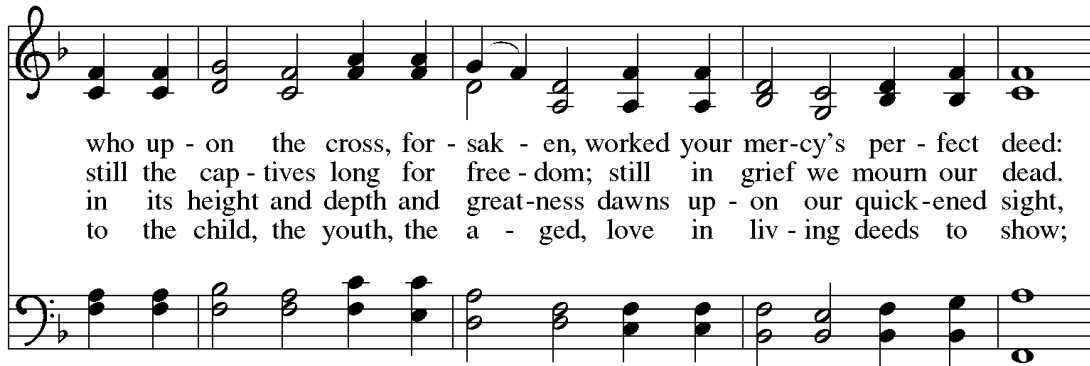
Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	<a href="mailto:pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	<a href="mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	<a href="mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	570-366-8757	<a href="mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	<a href="mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com">cwlutsey@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	<a href="mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>

# COMMUNION HYMN

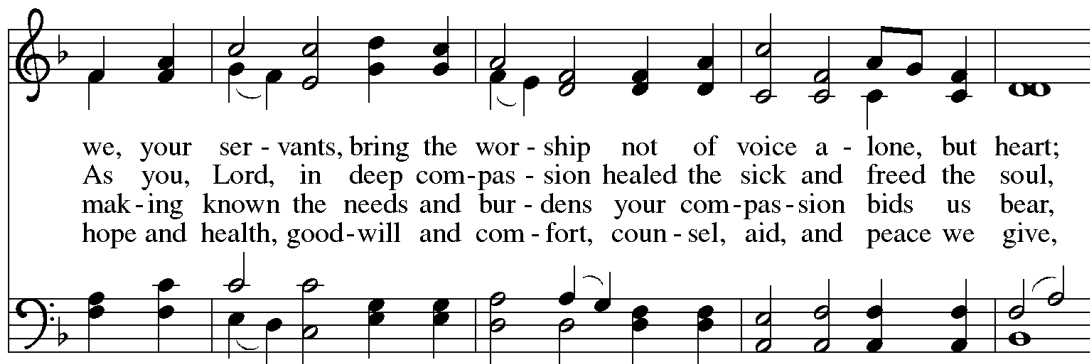
## “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



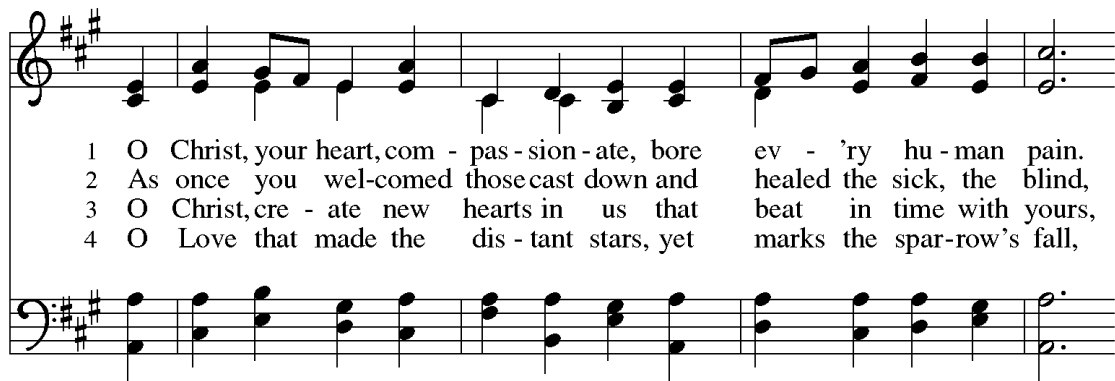
con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

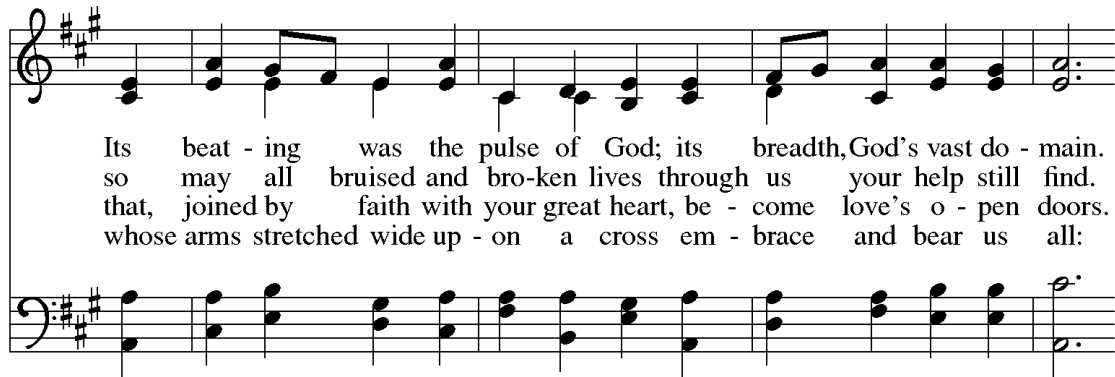
Our Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 10 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service! Please mark your calendars!

Sarah Eger, 570-394-3522 (cell), [swoodring86@hotmail.com](mailto:swoodring86@hotmail.com)

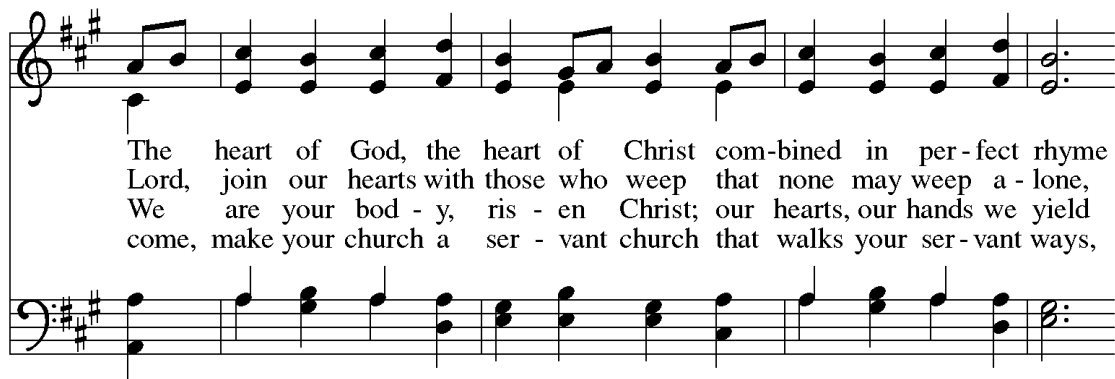
# SENDING HYMN "O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate"



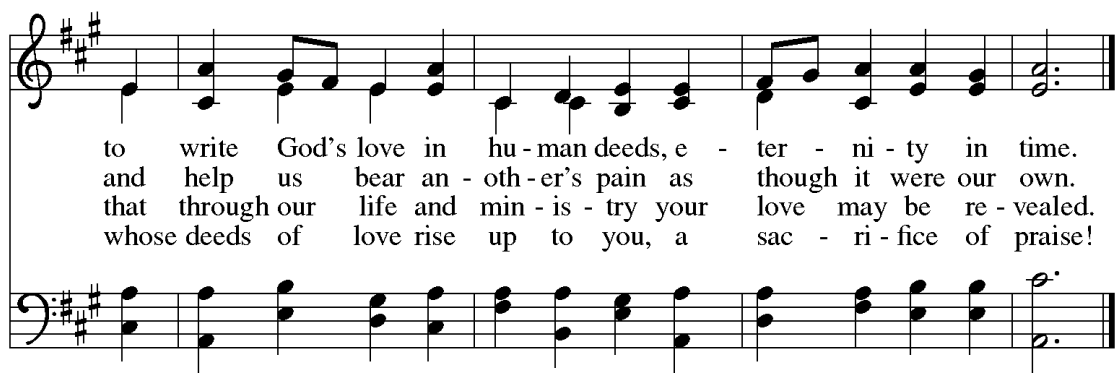
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



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!