

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 10, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

P. Taylor

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 God Beyond All Praising"
[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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church. Without your help, we cannot succeed. Protect us from us everything that is harmful and evil, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM EZEKIEL

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?
(Ezekiel 33:7-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 (Read responsively)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

**³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.**

**⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

A READING FROM ROMANS

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and

jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

(Romans 13:8-14)

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!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others

along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:15-20)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

[See back of bulletin]

BLESSING AND SENDING FOR MISSION (10:30 A.M. SERVICE ONLY)

Today we give thanks to God and seek God’s blessing as we complete our “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project. Let us bless these donations assembled before us as we send them to “Servants to All – My Father’s House” where they will help those in need.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With all creation we lift our voices in songs of praise, and we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. Renew us in our commitment to share our gifts with all who are in need.

Bless Executive Director Janette Triano Sinn and all who work for “Servants to All” and prosper the work of their hands. May they take comfort in the knowledge that they are doing your work and following in your path.

Bless all the donations which are gathered here and everyone who will receive them. May everyone who receives them find dignity and comfort as they use them, and may every person believe that they are truly valued and loved here on earth.

Almighty and ever living God, you love us more than we can hope for or imagine. Through Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love to the world, so that we might know abundant life now and have the promise of life eternal in a world yet to come.

Let us be your hands here on earth so that the hungry may be fed, the homeless may find shelter, the naked may be clothed, the weary may find rest, the stranger may be welcomed, and all people might know your boundless love.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of compassion and listening. Help us to extend hospitality and kindness in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Move us to love you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Help us to protect and enrich all that you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide legislators to create just laws and empower judges, lawyers, police, and government officials to uphold them. Teach us to treat all people with dignity and respect. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort all who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable and frightened. Send your healing to the sick, ill, or injured. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage us to value the vocation to which each of us is called. Bless all considering new employment opportunities. Remind us that we reveal our faith in all that we say and do beyond these four walls. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving your saints who died in faith and left behind for us a worthy legacy. May their trust in your promise of eternal life be our protection and our hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

M. McDonald

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 melody for the first line of lyrics. The second and third staves continue the melody for the subsequent lines of lyrics. The lyrics are: '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.

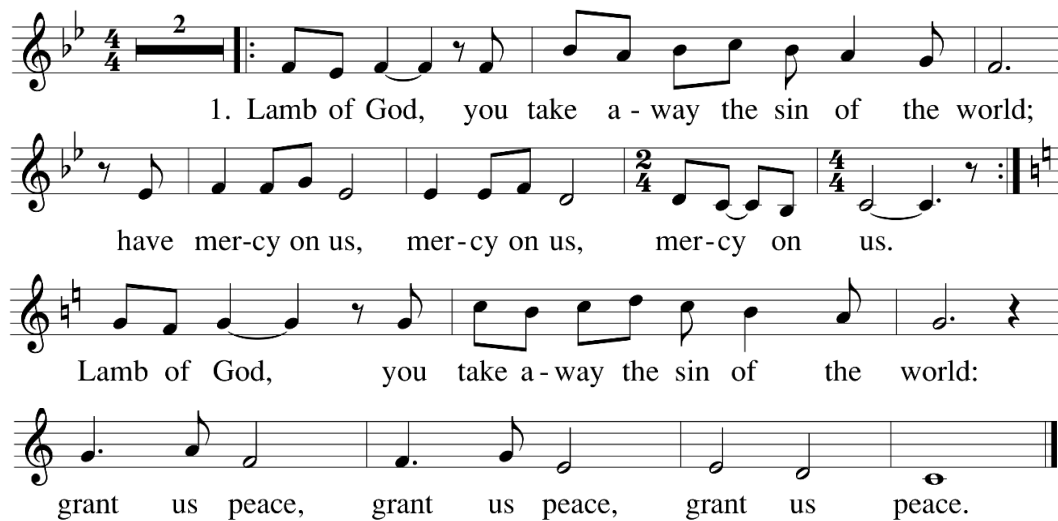
INSTRUCTIONS

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. 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 "Let Us Break Bread Together" [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Allegro"

Vivaldi/Bach

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

Introduction to the Day: Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus’ words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Chancel Flowers are presented in loving memory of Evan’s Dad, Robert “Sonny” Davis, on the second anniversary of his death, on his birthday, September 6th, by Pat and Evan Davis.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, September 10	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Teen Sunday School Begins
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
		“God’s Work. Our Hands “Sunday
		“Second Sunday” Sunday School Begins
Monday September 11	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday September 12	12:00 PM	WELCA Picnic/Pool Party at Ritschel Home
Wednesday September 13	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, September 15	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Landingville
Saturday, September 16	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, September 17	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum Returns
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (9/10/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Wendy Schuld; LECTOR: Jim Emerich

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/17/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Amy Dewald

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Glenda Bright; LECTOR: Jason Swick

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Doug Travor

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

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

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY

“God’s Work. Our Hands,” Sunday is TODAY. During our 10:30 a.m. service we will bless our donations to those in need served by “Servants to All – My Father’s house.” Jeanette Triano Sinn, Executive Director of “Servants to All,” is expected to join us for this special event.

SERVICE MINISTRY BAZAAR

Our Service Ministry will host its Annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall. The event will feature lots of good food, a large Chinese auction of gift baskets, many local vendors and craft dealers showing and selling their wares, a variety of homemade candies and pies for purchase, and an opportunity to visit with your friends and neighbors. Proceeds from this event will benefit those in need in our community. Come, enjoy, and help us help those in need!

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

In connection with our commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, we will hold our annual “Blessing of the Animals” service at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. This event is rain or shine.

All friendly leashed (or housed) animals, who slither, crawl, hop, walk, swim, or fly, are welcome to participate in this outdoor event. Let us give thanks to God for every living thing!

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. A signup sheet is in the gathering room. Please sign up by Friday, September 22, so we can provide enough hot dogs and beverages for everyone.

CATECHISM

Parents (or guardians) of young people who are in the 8th grade (or older), who have not been confirmed (that is, not completed a catechetical program and publicly affirmed their faith), are invited to contact Pastor Mike as soon as possible.

During our catechetical (or confirmation program), young people and their parents (or guardians) will be expected to worship regularly, actively take part in the life of the congregation, and share in this important process together as a family.

SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH US!

The Evangelism Committee would like to continue sending cards to lift the spirits of those members who cannot join us for worship, college students, and military personnel. Please call Connie Teter (at 570-366-0255) or contact any member of the Evangelism Committee with new names and addresses as well as any changes of address.

MUSIC DEDICATIONS

Friends, due to gaining choir members and rising music costs per octavo, we are raising the cost of a memorial anthem to \$70; the price of a bell piece is \$60. We are now buying 25 choral anthems instead of 22! Thank you for your understanding.

Our Worship and Music Committee

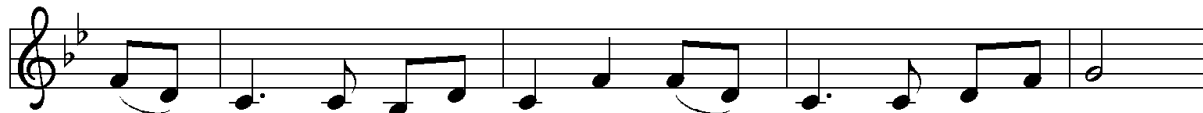
GATHERING HYMN "O God Beyond All Praising"



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

WELCA NEWS

St. Paul's women are invited to gather at a picnic/pool party at the home of Cindy Ritschel, 618 Hope Ave., Orwigsburg on Tuesday, September 12th at 12 noon. Please bring a box lunch for yourself, a beverage and dessert will be provided. You can also bring a swimsuit if you desire.

Along with our regular offering, the In-Gathering offering designated for the Orwigsburg Historical Society "red barn" appeal will be received at this time. A sign-up sheet is at the WELCA bulletin board. Deadline to sign is September 10th.

HYMN OF THE DAY

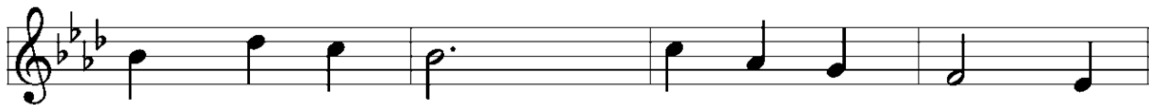
“God’s Work, Our Hands”



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

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!

COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

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

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

Refrain

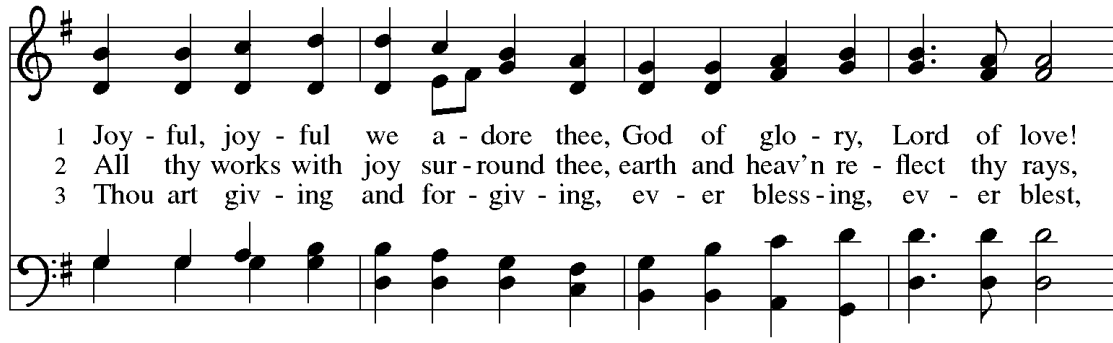
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

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

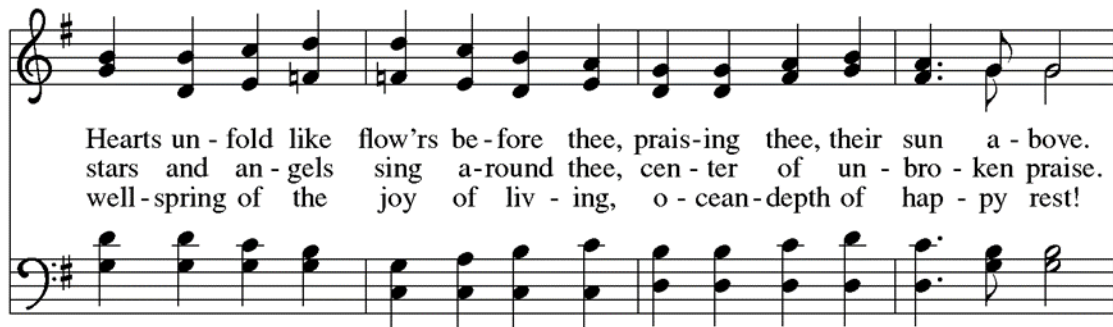
Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-366-2316 - Ext 11 pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
 Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director 570-573-4076 justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
 Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
 Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152
 Karen Travor, Treasurer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

SENDING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

RED CREEK WILDLIFE CENTER

Donations for Red Creek will be received throughout September for our St. Francis Day celebration on Sunday, October 1.

Requested donations include:

Everyday needs: Bleach (any brand), Dawn dishwashing detergent, Simple Green Cleaner, Large and Kitchen size trash bags, vinegar type window cleaner, paper towels, unscented facial tissues.

General needs: gallon size Ziploc bags, batteries (AAA, AA C, D) heavy duty extension cords, heating pads, 2-quart pitchers, light bulbs (40W-100 W, and 4' fluorescent bulbs.

A box for donations is in the narthex. Please give as you are able or if you did not have the opportunity to attend the concert.