

# *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, September 17, 2023*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

"Arioso"

J. S. Bach

### **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**

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

[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, you are a merciful judge and the source of endless forgiveness. Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A READING FROM GENESIS**

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. (Genesis 50:15-21)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 103:1-13 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## **A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

<sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

(Romans 14:1-12)

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>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

<sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

(Matthew 18:21-35)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## ANNOUCEMENTS

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“Awake, O Sleeper”  
[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

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

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of congregations, that they lift up the good news of salvation in ways which are clear and understandable. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and hold back rivers whose banks overflow because of floods. Protect the crops needed to feed all those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead thoughtfully, practice forgiveness, and demonstrate kindness for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who suffer in any way; for those who face financial difficulties, live with chronic pain, or struggle with addiction. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, give without expecting to be repaid, and care for all those seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died in faith and now rest from their earthly labors. Show us how to live faithfully, give generously, and reach out lovingly. 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 (8:00 AM)**

"Prayer"

T. Davis

**ANTHEM (10:30 AM)**

"Seek Ye First"\*

L. Larson

**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 continues with 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from'. The third staff concludes with 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.' The music consists of quarter and eighth 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.

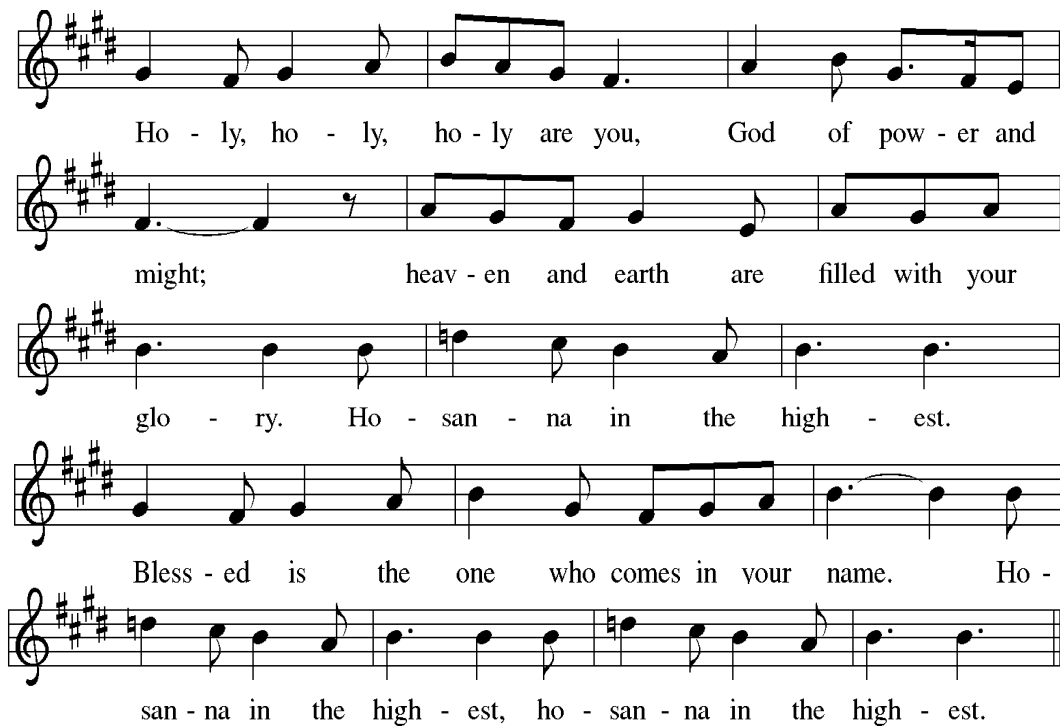
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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.



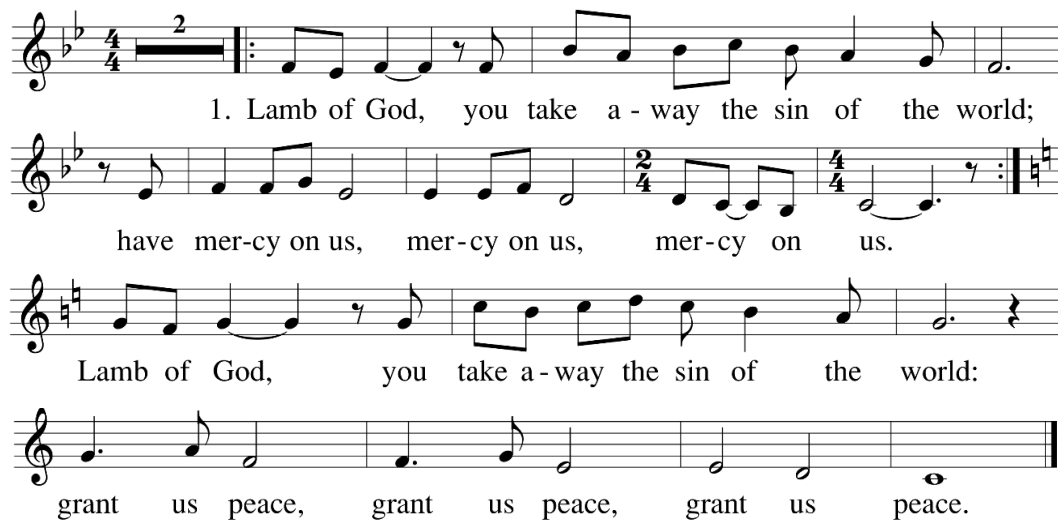
## **INSTRUCTIONS**

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**

“Abide with 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**      “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”  
[See back of bulletin]

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

"Hornpipe"

G. F. Handel

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Introduction to the Day:** In today’s second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus’ challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God’s boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Altar Flowers** are presented in loving memory of father and grandfather, Ralph Reibie, on his birthday, today, by Sue, Kurt, and Julie Schenck.

\*”*Seek Ye First*” was presented in memory of George and Frieda Somers by James Lengel and their families, and by Justin McClure in honor of his parents.

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S</b>
--------------------------------

Sunday, September 17	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum Returns
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday September 19	10:00 AM	Rainbow Friends
----------------------	----------	-----------------

Wednesday September 20	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir

Friday, September 22	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Auburn
----------------------	----------	---------------------

Saturday, September 23	5:30 PM	Worship
------------------------	---------	---------

Sunday, September 24	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum Returns
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

Our Annual Church Picnic at Albright’s Woods Pavilion following the 10:30 AM service

\*\*\*\*\*

**SERVING THIS 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

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/24/23)**

**8:00 AM**

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

**10:30 AM**

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Sue Reier; LECTOR: Elinda Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Reier

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

\*\*\*\*\*

**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!

**OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

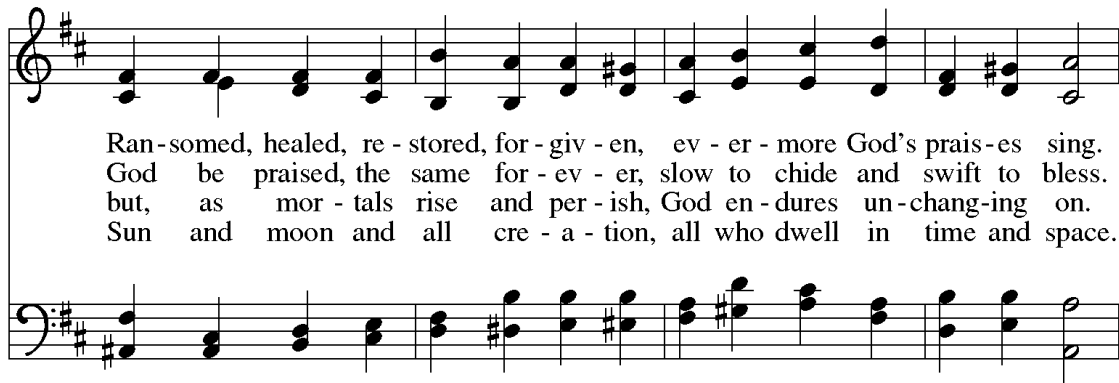
Following our 10:30 a.m. service at the church on Sunday, September 24, we will hold our annual Church Picnic at Albright's Woods Pavilion. A signup sheet is in the gathering room. Please sign up by Friday, September 22, so we can provide enough hot dogs and beverages for everyone

## GATHERING HYMN

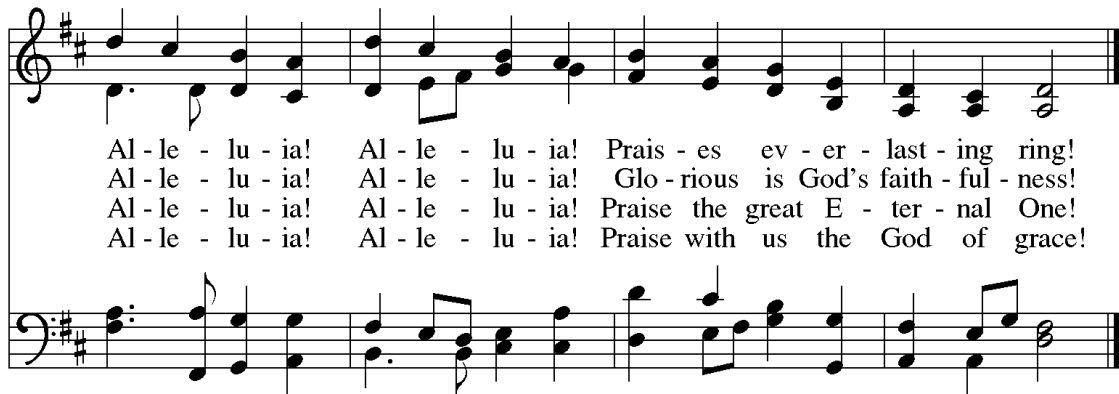
### “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.  
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.  
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.  
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.  
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

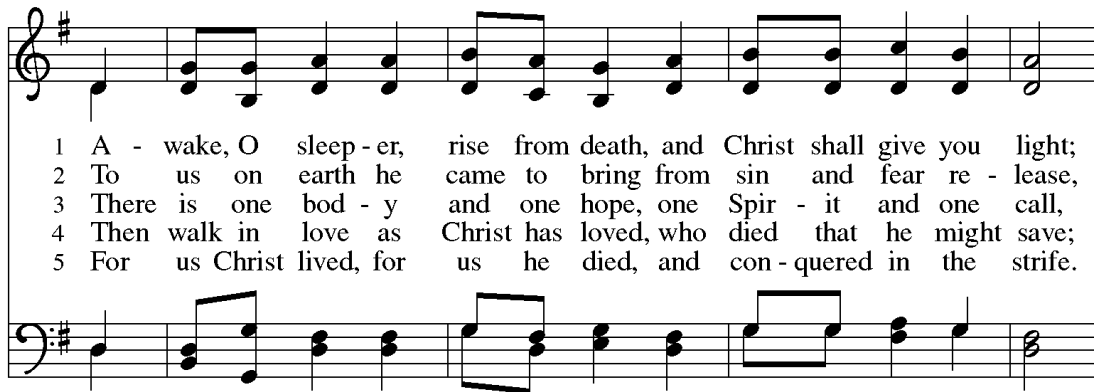
## CATECHISM

Parents (or guardians) of young people who are in the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

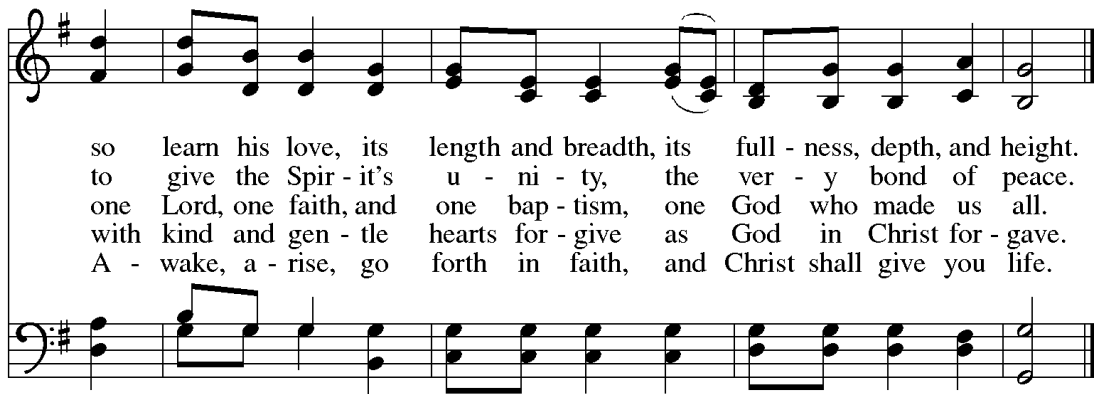
During our catechetical (or confirmation program), young people and their parents (or guardians) will be expected to worship regularly, actively take part in the life of the congregation, and share in this important process together as a family.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## “Awake, O Sleeper”



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

### 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.

### 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

## “Abide with Me”

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

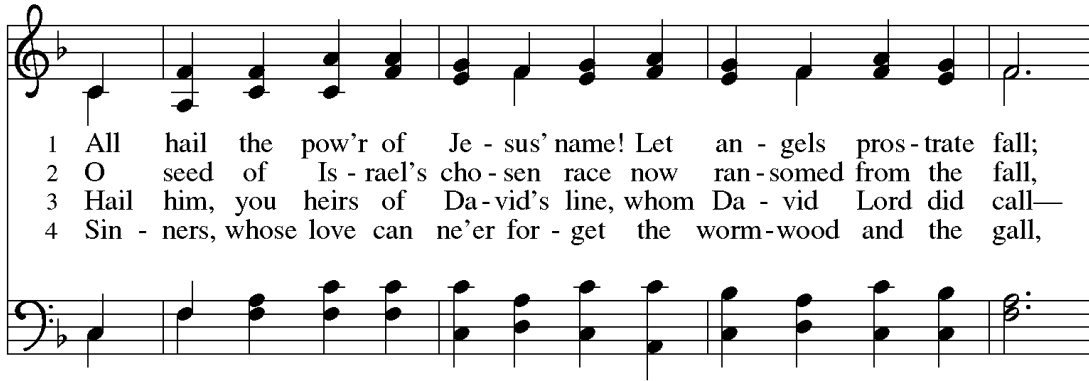
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

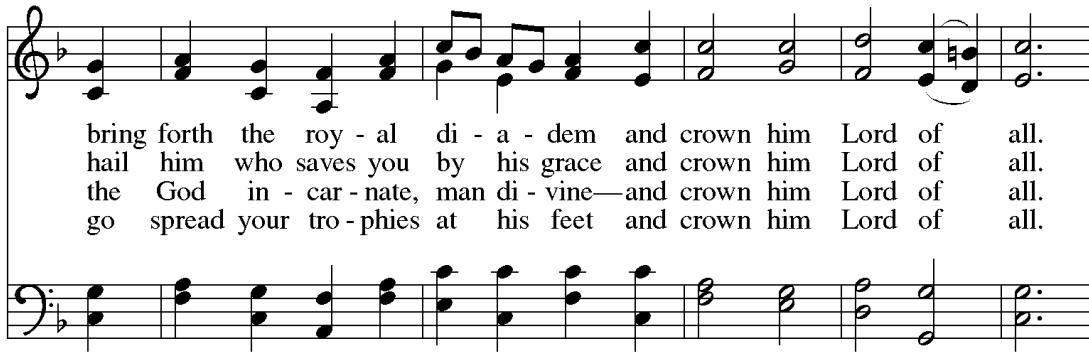
help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

# SENDING HYMN

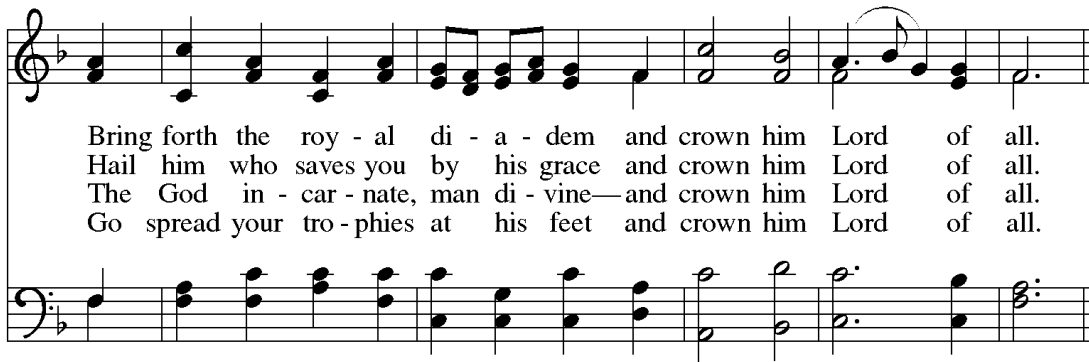
## “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.

\*\*\*\*\*

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>

## **ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY/BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

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!

As part of this event, donations will be accepted for Hillside SPCA, Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA & Red Creek Wildlife Center.

SPCA collections will take place the weekend of September 30/October 1 at all Worship Services and donations for Red Creek will be received throughout September for our St. Francis Day celebration on Sunday, October 1. Donations can also be brought to the event.

Red Creek 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.)

SPCA donation suggestions include:

Canned/dry dog & cat food , dog & cat treats, cat litter, cleaning supplies, old blankets, towels, sheets, newspapers, new or used collars & leashes, food bowls

## **"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our next Second Sunday School class will take place on October 8th! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 AM service for Bible stories, fun, fellowship, and a snack.

Students ages 11 to 18 are invited to join me between the services (9:15 - 10:15 a.m.) for a teen Sunday School group.

Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) [swodring86@hotmail.com](mailto:swodring86@hotmail.com).