

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 24, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Fantasia"

G.P. Telemann

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

"As Saints of Old"
[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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, be merciful in your judgement and teach us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM JONAH

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

(Jonah 3:10 – 4:11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8 (Read responsively)

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

(Philippians 1:21-30)

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 disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matthew 20:1-16)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Rise Up, O Saints of God”
[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.

Teach your church to welcome all people. Remind us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge us to value equity and embrace compassion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us remember that even the smallest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Equip them to faithfully serve their communities in times of danger and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort all who are imprisoned unjustly. Bring healing to all who are sick or injured. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list and all who grieve the loss of a loved one. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to use our gifts and abilities to help our neighbors. Bless the work of our hands, hearts, and minds for the sake of the gospel and the salvation of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. Unite our spirits with theirs, hold us firm in faith, and welcome us as you have welcomed them into your eternal kingdom. 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) "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" C. Converse

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "I Will Sing Praise"* J. Martin

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.

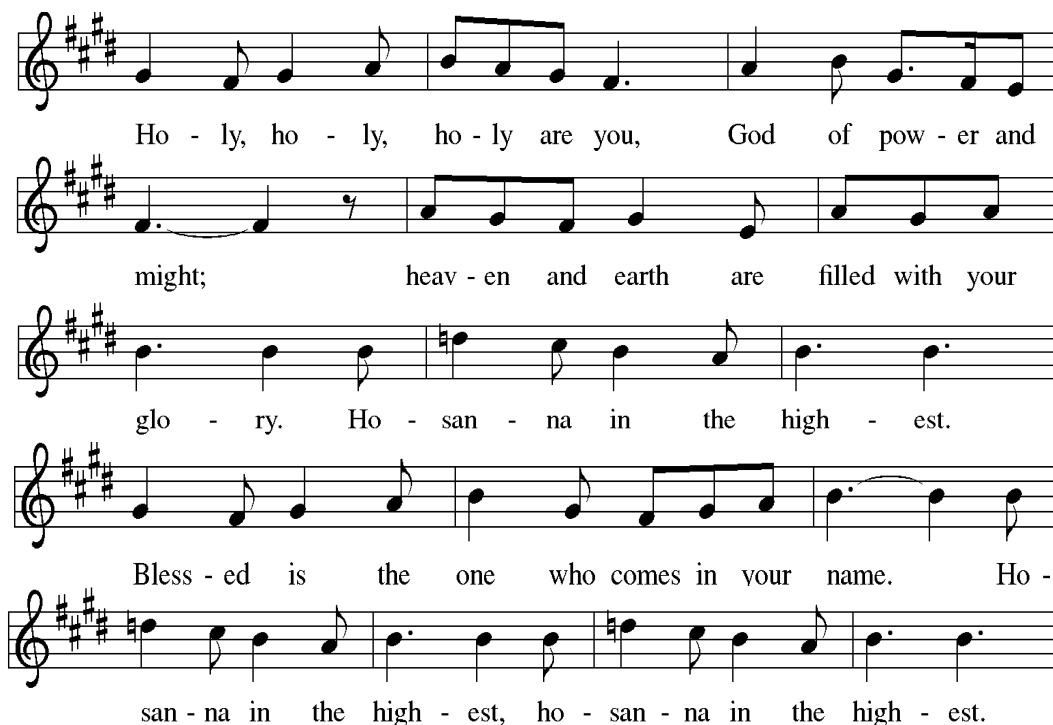
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

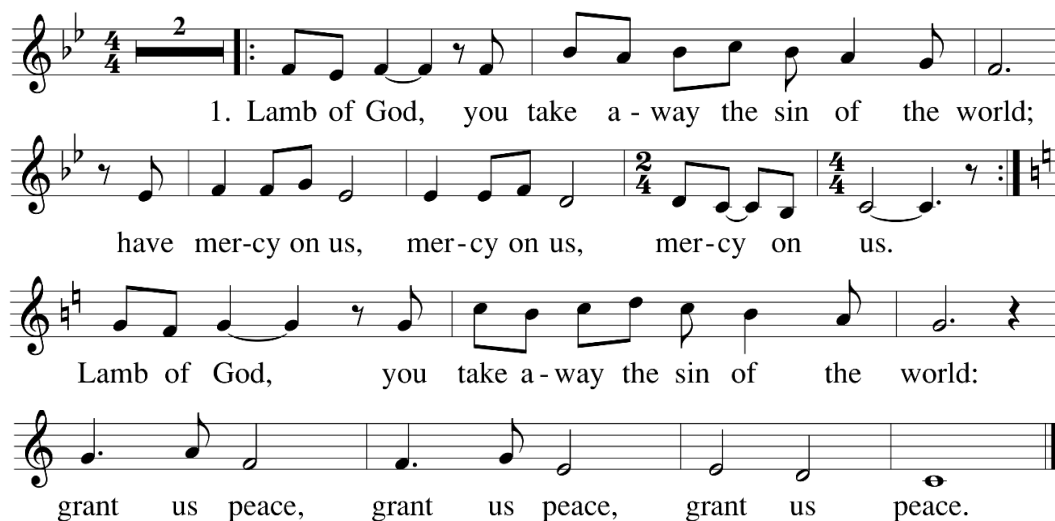
INSTRUCTIONS

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. 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 of Light”
[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

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Marche Pontificale"

C. Gounod

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Introduction to the Day: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. Jonah is angry when God decides not to punish Nineveh for their evil ways. Yet Jonah knows that God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy, we are all beggars.

Altar Flowers are presented in loving memory of Carl Long by Christine and Dr. Kevin Long.

"I Will Sing Praise" was presented in honor of The Joy Builders by The Rev. David Kistler, Chaplain, Hamburg Center (1995).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 24	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum Returns
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
		Annual Church Picnic at Albright's Woods Pavilion following the 10:30 a.m. service
Wednesday September 27	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, September 29	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, September 30	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, October 1		Commemoration of Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	4:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals at Albright's Woods Pavilion

SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/01/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Jeff Ritschel; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Evan Davis

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

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. Sign-up sheets for this event are in the gathering room. Proceeds from this event will benefit those in need in our community. Come, enjoy, and help us help those in need!

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!

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:

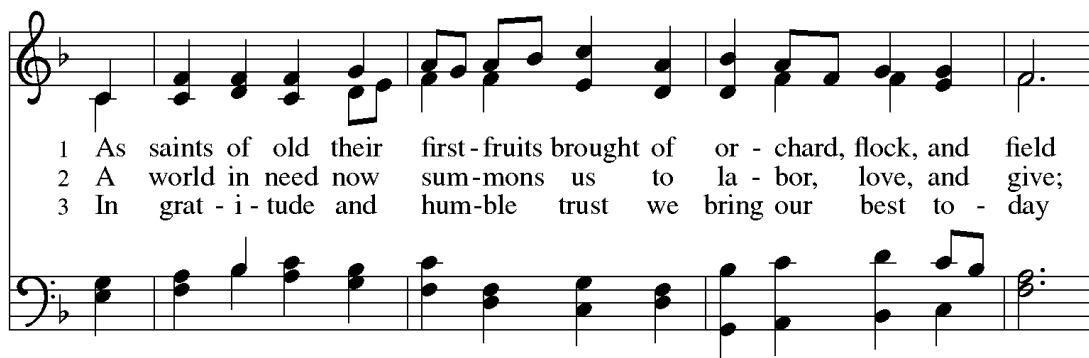
Canned/dry dog & cat food , dog & cat treats, cat litter, cleaning supplies, old blankets, towels, sheets, newspapers, new or used collars & leashes, food bowls.

We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

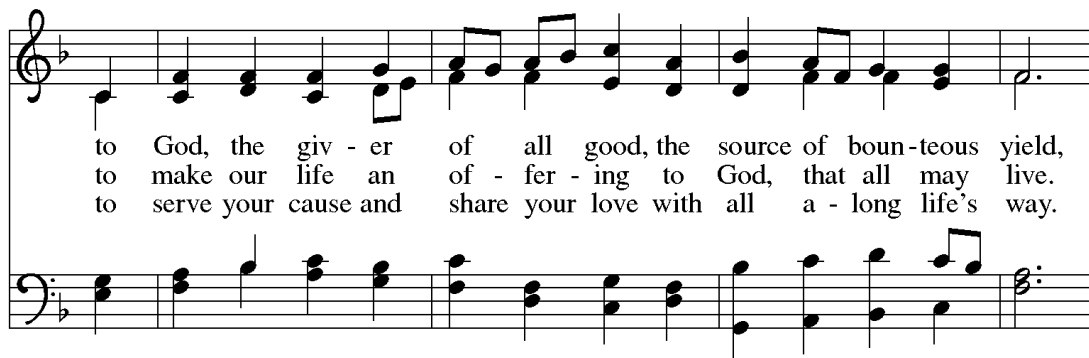
Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	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

GATHERING HYMN

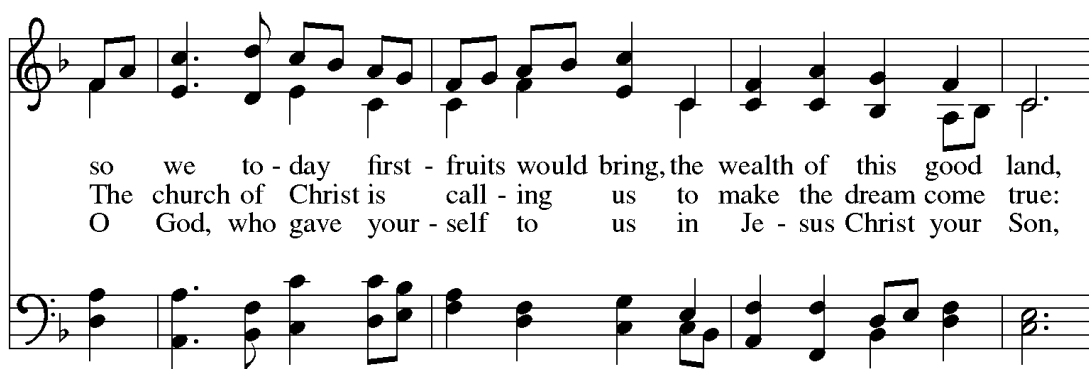
“As Saints of Old”



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

WELCA

WELCA is donating a gift-card basket to the bazaar. Anyone interested in donating a card (or money or check made to St. Paul's WELCA to be used to purchase cards) can be placed in the labeled box beneath the WELCA bulleting board. Deadline to donate is Wednesday, Oct. 4th.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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.

“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.

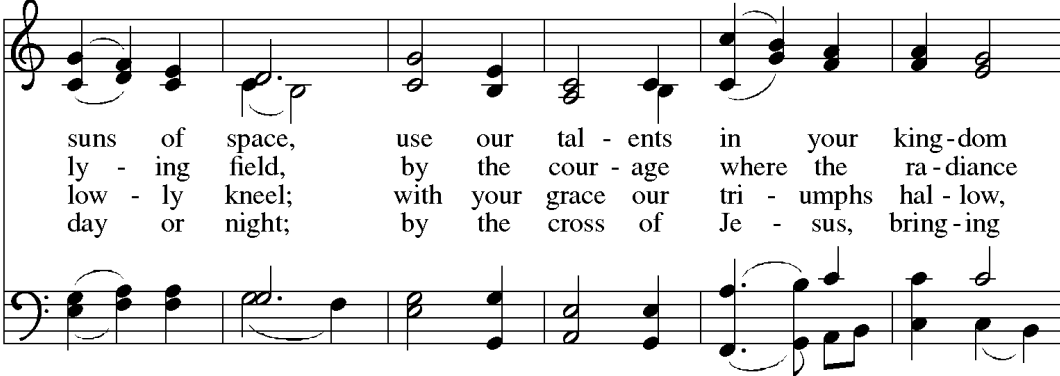
Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell)
swoodring86@hotmail.com.

COMMUNION HYMN


"Lord of Light"



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

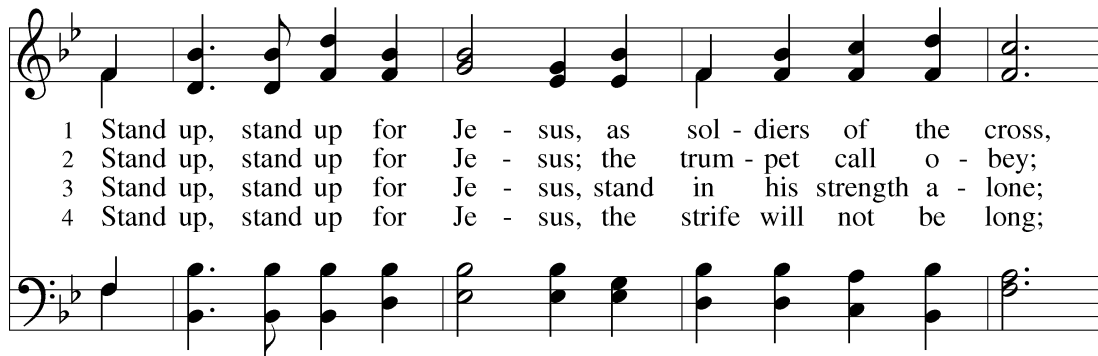
Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

SENDING HYMN

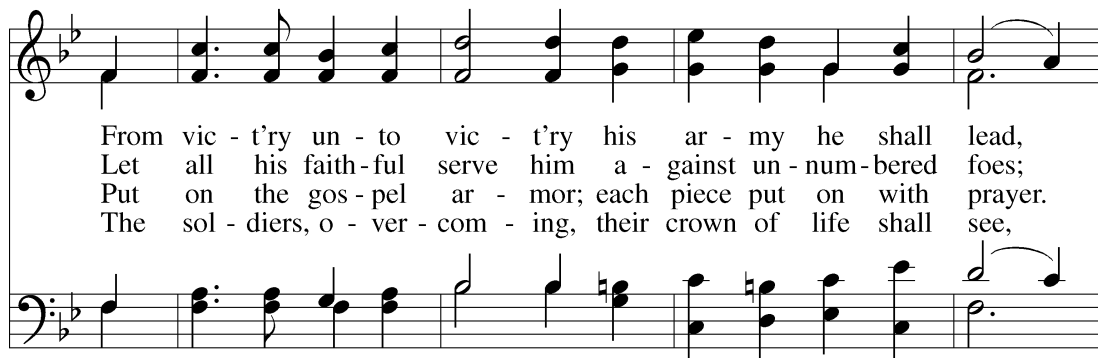
“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”



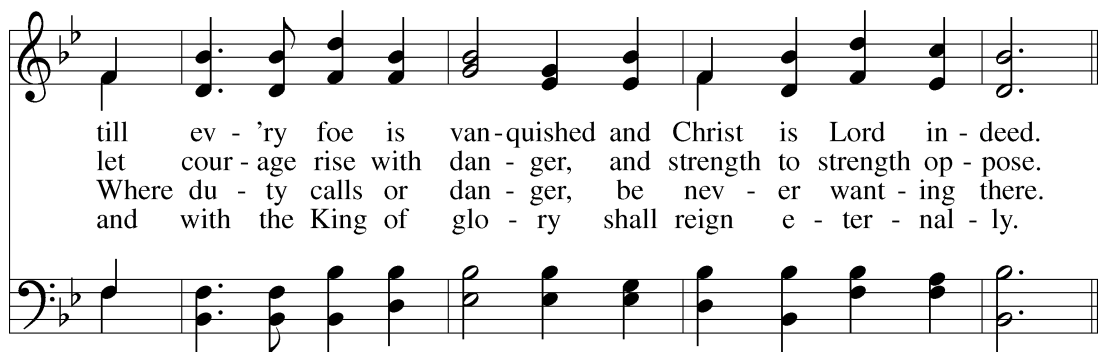
1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, as sol - diers of the cross,
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone;
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;



lift high his roy - al ban - ner; it must not suf - fer loss.
stand forth in might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day.
the arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.
this day the din of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,
Let all his faith - ful serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the gos - pel ar - mor; each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, their crown of life shall see,



till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
and with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Today, following our 10:30 a.m. service at the church, we will hold our annual Church Picnic at Albright's Woods Pavilion. Everyone is invited!