

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 15, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:00 AM) "Harvest Medley" C. Berry
(10:30 AM) "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" C. Dobrinski
Bell Choir

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 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”
[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

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem (10:30 AM) "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" C. Moglebust
Bell Choir

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isaiah 25:1-9)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (Read responsively)

¹The LORD^l is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

[Paul writes:] ¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:1-9)

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.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

(Matthew 22:1-14)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “We Give Thee but Thine Own”
[See back of bulletin]

BLESSING AND SENDING OF GIFTS (10:30 AM)

Today we give thanks to God and seek God’s blessing as we give our annual Harvest Home offering. 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 many gifts with all those who are in need.

Bless those who oversee the work of the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and all who volunteer their time and effort to assist them in our community. Bless everyone who contributes to our Food Pantry and especially to everyone who provided food or donations for our Harvest Home offering.

Help us to remember all who depend on our Food Pantry and bless this food and our donations as we send them to help our neighbors in need. May those who receive these gifts know that they are valued and loved.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you have revealed your boundless love to the world, so that all people might live abundantly and share in the promise of eternal life.

Teach us to be generous with all that you have given us, that everyone may see our good works and give thanks to you, our Father who art in heaven; this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to faithfully live together in harmony and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For green pastures and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and that all humanity lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, with the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness continues to guide your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

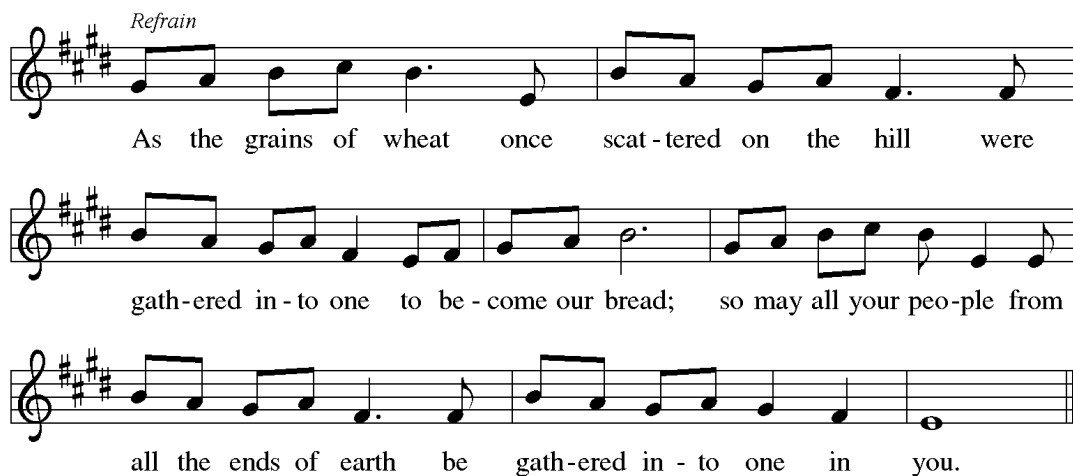
L. Smith

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Come to the Banquet"*

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.

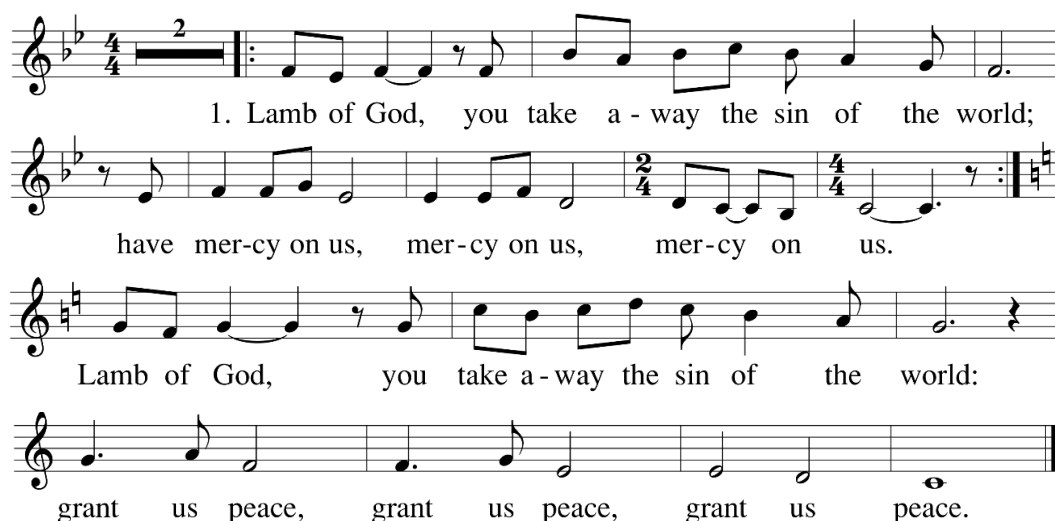
INSTRUCTIONS

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 (10:30 AM) "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"
[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

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Give Thanks Unto God"

F. Ritter

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Introduction to the Day: In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Altar Flowers are presented in loving memory of Bubba's birthday by Tom and Gwen Wehr

Bulletins are presented in honor of Mikey and Emily Lado's birthdays by her parents.

*"Come to the Banquet" was presented in loving memory of Gloria Campbell by Mary Timpany. (2009)

Our thanks everyone who donated non-perishable items for our local Food Pantry!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, October 15		"HARVEST HOME"
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday, October 17	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Wednesday, October 18	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, October 20	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Tumbling Run
	6:00 PM	Volunteers for the Food Pantry
Saturday, October 21	8:45 AM	Volunteers for the Food Pantry
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, October 22	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (10/15/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: ConnieTeter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Karen Shoener; LECTOR: Sarah Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald

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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/22/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jerry Goessel; LECTOR: Elinda Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Greg Sklar

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Committee Members Please plan to attend this important meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to review the duties/responsibilities of the Altar Guild Committee. We will be distributing a refreshed set of guidelines.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND TRICK-OR-TREAT

The Evangelism Committee will participate in the Orwigsburg Halloween Parade at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25 (with rain date Thursday, October 26) and our Trick-or-Treat Night on Monday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. (with rain date Tuesday, November 1). Anyone wishing to participate should contact Elinda Lado at 570-366-8998 or the church office at 570-366-2316.

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. Contact us at our church office at 570-366-2316 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to put together boxes of food on Friday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m. at our community Food Pantry at St. John's United Church of Christ. Young people under 18 years old are invited to share in this work.

Volunteers are also needed to help distribute these boxes on Saturday, October 21, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Let's help those who are hungry in our community!

ALL SAINTS

All Saints will be observed during our worship on Saturday November 4, and Sunday, November 5, 2022. The following is a list of members and friends of our congregation who have passed on since our last All Saints services: Heather L. Frantz, David C. Yuengling, Angela J. Miller, Deborah E. Moyer, Robert L. Schuld, William D. Tihansky, and Shirley Z. Dull. If you know any other names which you believe should be added to this list, please contact Pastor Mike (570-366-2316) as soon as possible.

REMEMBRANCE TABLE

St. Paul's will again have a "Remembrance Table" honoring our loved ones who have passed away this year during our services on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5. Our congregation is also encouraged to bring pictures of family and friends who previously have found their eternal home.

Please bring your pictures to the church gathering room by Friday, November 3. We will use the table and windowsills in the nave to give thanks to God as we honor ALL our saints.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY MEAL

Let me cook supper for you! Sunday School families are invited to gather together for a meal on Thursday, October 19th to spend time together as a church family! The whole family is welcome to attend! We will meet in the gathering room of the church from 6 to 7 p.m.

Please RSVP to Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522 or by email at swoodring86@hotmail.com, if you are able to attend so I can plan for food.

SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

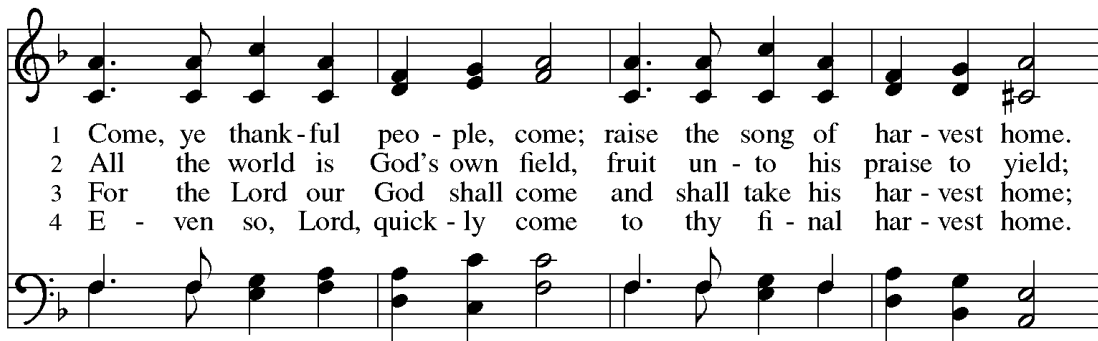
If you have names and addresses of members who can no longer join us for worship (e.g., homebound, college students, military personnel, recently moved), please call Connie Teter (at 570-366-0255) or contact any member of the Evangelism Committee. Cards of support and encouragement signed by church members can lift the spirits of those who cannot worship with us in person.

CHILI & SOUP SALE

The Men of St. Paul's will host a Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, November 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the square" in downtown Orwigsburg. Come for great chili, tasty soups, and homemade baked goods. Please mark your calendars!

GATHERING HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”



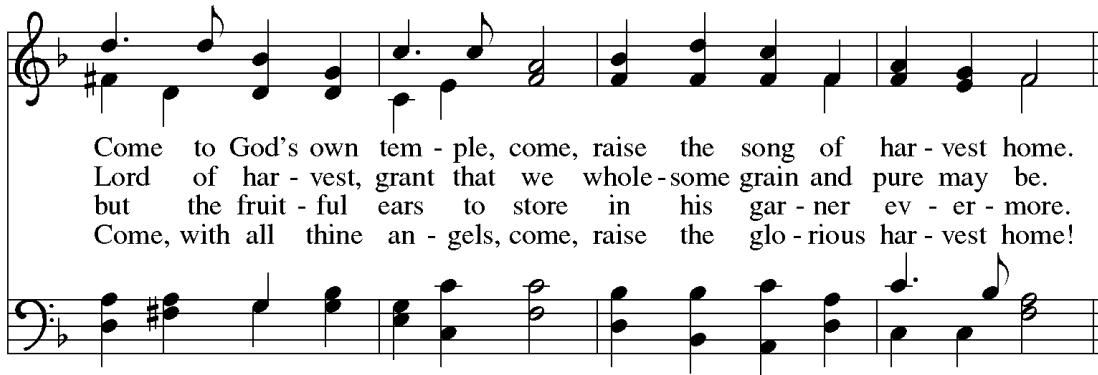
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

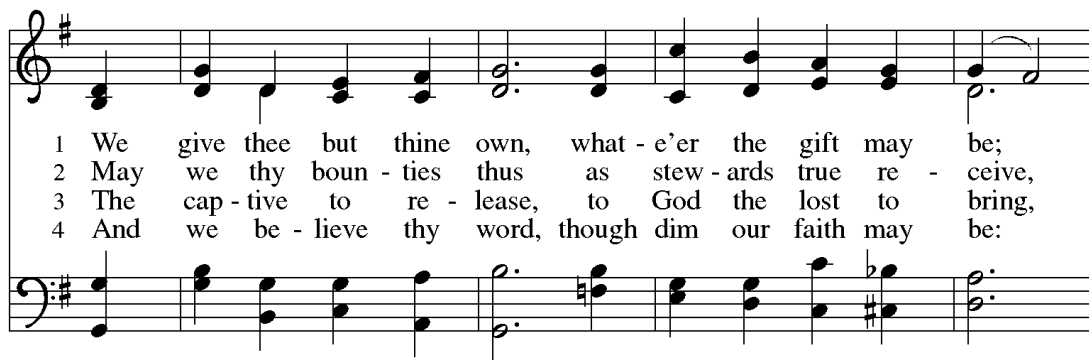


God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

HYMN OF THE DAY “We Give Thee but Thine Own”



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



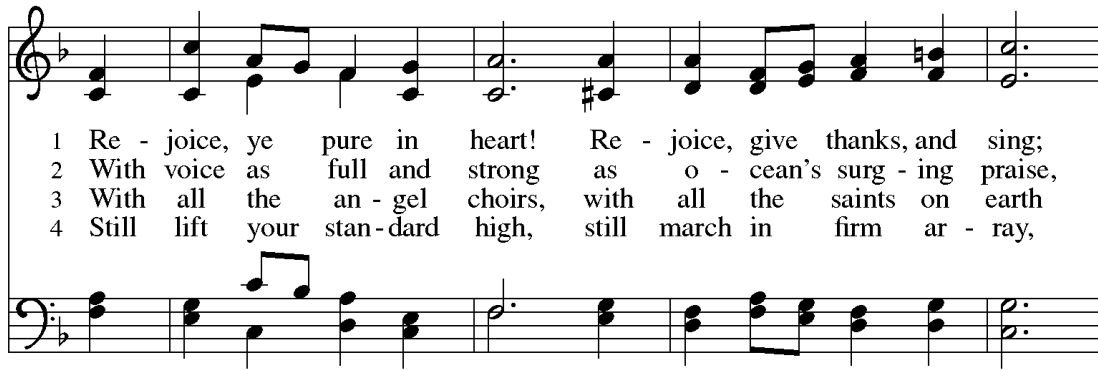
by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,




sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

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Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org