

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, November 12, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"O Rest in the Lord"

F. Mendelssohn

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the One who is faithful.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin holds us in its grasp.

We have not protected your good creation.

We have failed to do justice, love kindness,

and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

Be our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Believe and trust in God. Take comfort in God's amazing grace. Know that for the sake of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

[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.**

KYRIE

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM AMOS

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

(Amos 5:18-24)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

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“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

(Matthew 25:1-13)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”
[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 who was conceived by power of the 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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people and center us in your hope. Deepen our faith and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in all that you have made good. Heal and renew your wounded creation. Save us from foolish and wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, make wars to cease save your children from violence and harm. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they know that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God in whom we hope, provide for those who are homeless, hungry, and unemployed. Bring comfort now to all who suffer. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs of your greatness and glory. Help us to sing with joy as we proclaim your gift of salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now rest in you. Comfort and bring the assurance of everlasting life in Jesus Christ to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): We offer these our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "It Is Well with My Soul"

C. Berry

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Waiting for a King"*

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.

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 eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, in your love you provide for all our needs. Multiply these gifts which we bring to you and increase our faith so that we are always ready to share every good gift with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

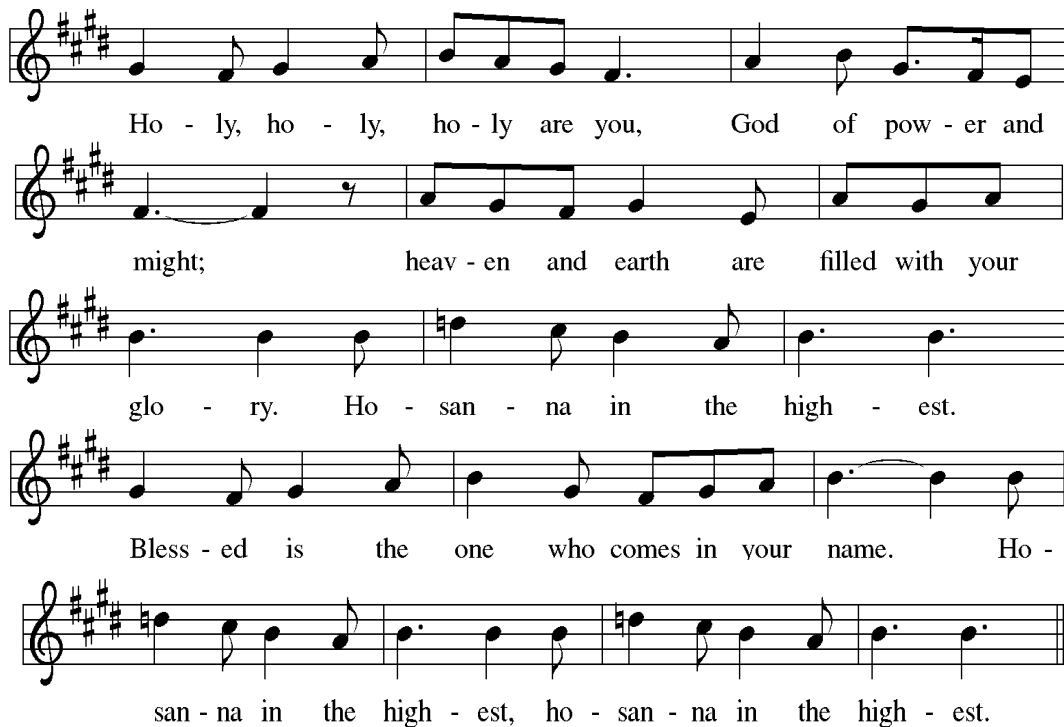
We lift them to the Lord.

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

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

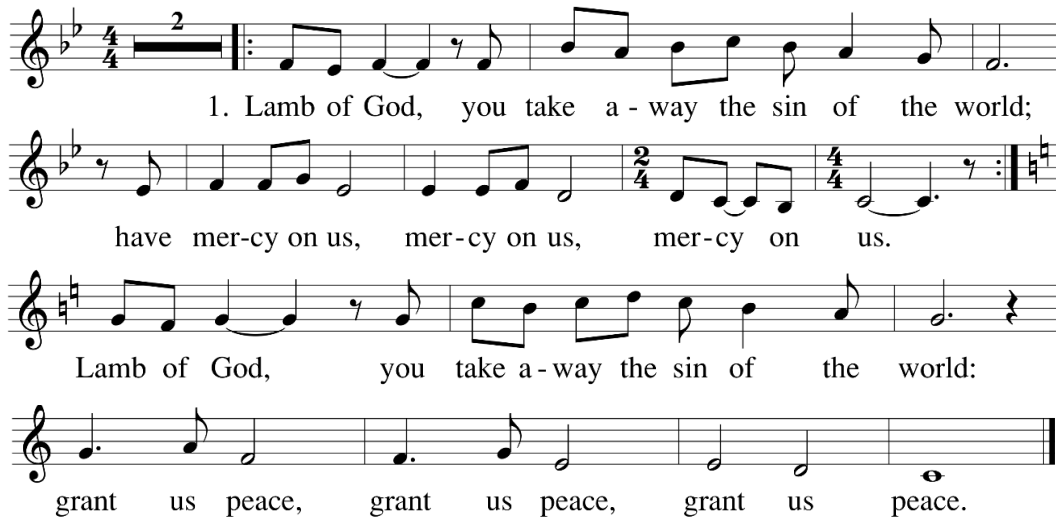
INSTRUCTIONS

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 "When Peace Like a River" (10:30 AM ONLY)

[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

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Let us now go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on St. Thomas"

D. E. Wagner

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Introduction to the Day: Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to "... roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. We celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Altar Flowers are presented in memory of Rose and Wrone Peifley by Tina Butler.

Chancel Flowers are presented in memory of Robert Ebinger, by the Lado family.

Chancel Flowers are also presented in memory of my brother, Eric C. Shaud, by Crystal Brensinger and family.

Bulletins are presented in honor of all veterans by Danielle and Stu Richard.

*"Waiting for a King" was presented in loving memory of D. Mark Herb by Tom and Gwen Wehr (2000).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, November 12	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum and Teen Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Youth Sunday School
Monday, November 13	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, November 14	1:00 PM	WELCA
Wednesday, November 15	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, November 17	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, November 18	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, November 19	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	4:00 PM	Community Thanksgiving Service

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

This year poinsettias are priced at \$9.00 per potted plant. Please choose between red and white blooms and fill out the form found in this bulletin. Poinsettia orders and money must be received by Sunday, December 3!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (11/12/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Kay Weidensaul; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Deb Bolinsky; LECTOR: Becky Smoot

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (11/19/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Tom Wehr; LECTOR: Sue Reier

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave Krewson

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

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

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 - 4:00 PM

GREETER: Greg Sklar

USHERS: Jerry Henn and Jeff Ritschel

BLANKET DRIVE FOR LOCAL SPCA

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA are sponsoring a blanket drive to help the Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA keep their cats and dogs more comfortable during the chilly winter months.

Please bring your bags of clean, used (but not knitted or crocheted) blankets to our choir room prior to rehearsals on Wednesdays and prior to our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Sue Schenck, Tina Butler, or Cindy Ritschel will receive, and Sue will deliver our donations to the Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA.

Our blanket drive will end Wednesday, November 29, 2023, but if you find additional blankets, just tell Sue, and she will take them to the shelter.

THANK YOU!

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.

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.

HONOR OUR VETERANS

The men and women of our armed forces risk their lives to protect the freedom and liberty of Americans here and around the world. For this and much more, every veteran is worthy of honor. Let us give thanks to God for all our veterans, not only on Veterans Day, but every day throughout the year.

WELCA NEWS

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, November 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Guest speaker, Michael Lado, will share the Lado's recent journey to Israel and Jordan.

WELCA has also been asked to host the refreshment table following the Thanksgiving community service on Sunday, November 19. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the gathering room for church members to donate light refreshments.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will take place TODAY, Sunday, November 12th! 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.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.

The cost of a 6.5" bloom plant is **\$9.00**.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 3!

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it with payment to the plate
marked "Poinsettias" in the gathering room.

NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order _____ white poinsettia(s),

at \$9.00 each. If you wish to dedicate your plant(s) "in honor/memory of,"
please circle one for the lines you complete below. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Are you paying with CASH? or CHECK? CHECK # _____

Total # of Poinsettias: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

GATHERING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation, we have exceeded the amount of money needed to purchase 150 half gallons of milk for families at the food pantry for the November (Thanksgiving) distribution. No more money will be collected at this time. Due to the food pantry's desperate need for paper towels, any excess funds will be used to purchase paper towels.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.


MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

A severe humanitarian crisis continues to unfold in the Gaza Strip. The ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners in this area. Your donations designated for “Middle East Crisis” will be used entirely (100%) to provide support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.

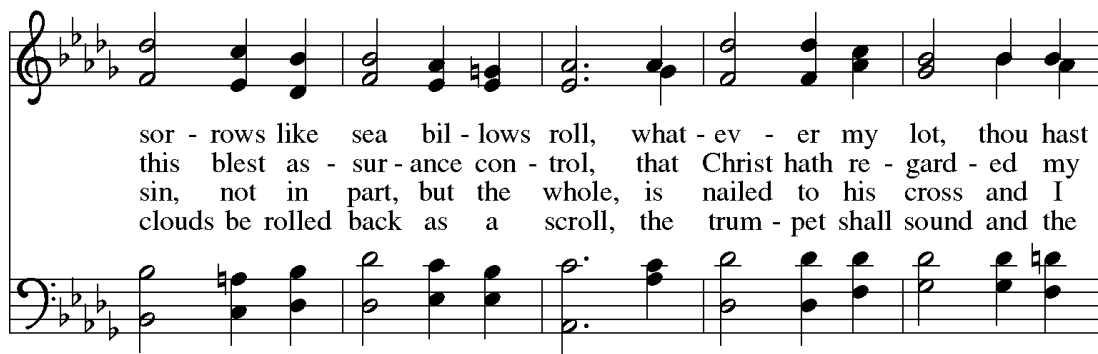
Gifts may be given by check to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church with the memo line “Middle East Crisis.” Cash donations should also indicate that the donation is for the “Middle East Crisis.”

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	610-507-2797	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


COMMUNION HYMN "When Peace Like a River"



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS

Need to do a little holiday shopping? On Sunday, December 3rd the Crafters' Guild will display their creations, including some new Christmas items, in the gathering room between and after our Sunday services.

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN DEDICATIONS

The green Flower and Bulletin binder has been updated! Sponsors for Altar flowers, Chancel flowers, and bulletins can now be dedicated for the year 2024.