Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday, November 19, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Now Thank We All Our God"

J. S. Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ⅓ 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 "O God Our Help in Ages Past" [See back of bulletin]

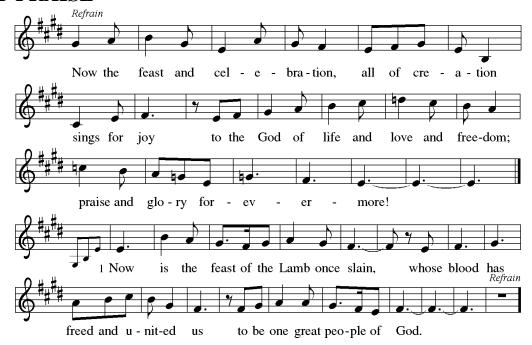
GREETING

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



HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

A READING FROM ZEPHANIAH

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,

"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

(Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (Read Responsively)

¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

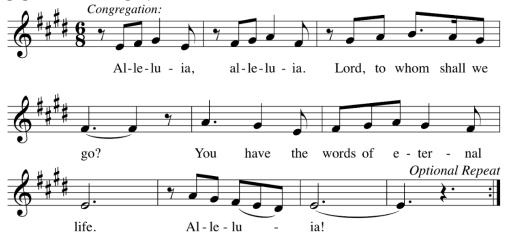
A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an

abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 25:14-30)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "God of t

"God of the Fertile Fields" [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 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.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and selfish ways, that we may use our talents to glorify you and help our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain your good creation; protect farmlands and harvests. Teach us to be wise stewards of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to be honest and upright. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and free victims of injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days so that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is brokenness, bring healing, and where there is loss, reveal your love. We especially pray for all who suffer amid war and violence and for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the ministries of our church which help our faith to grow. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For your amazing grace, your gift of salvation, your promise of never-ending life, and for the great witness of all who have died in faith, we praise you for your goodness. 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)

"Andante"

R. Lasky

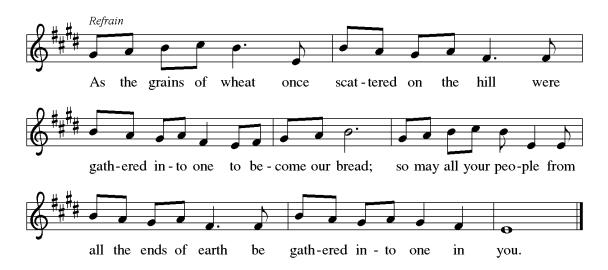
ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

"Look at the World"*

J. Rutter

OFFERTORY HYMN

"As Grains of Wheat"



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.

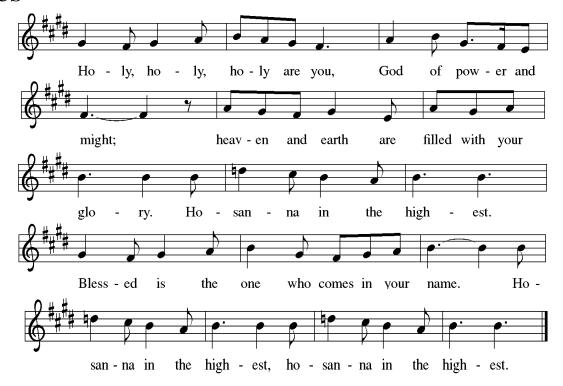
We lift them to the Lord.

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



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.

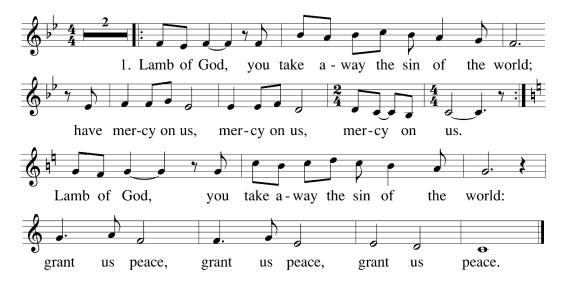
INSTRUCTIONS

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



COMMUNION HYMN "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" (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 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" [See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

Introduction to the Day: Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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!

Altar Flowers are presented in loving memory of my mother, Ruth Helen Wehr by her son, Tom

Chancel Flowers are presented in honor of Jim Emerich's birthday (Nov. 20th), by his wife, Joanne.

Chancel Flowers are also presented in memory of Dale Strouse on his birthday, by Kathleen and family.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Lafko by the Lafko family.

*"Look at the World" was presented in honor of Kathleen Miller by her mother, Corrinne Shoener (1997).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
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 "Eve" Service	
Wednesday, November 22 6:00 PM		Bell Choir	
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir	
Thursday, November 23		HAPPY THANKGIVING DAY!	
Friday, November 24	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Landingville	
Saturday, November 25	5:30 PM	Worship	
Sunday, November 26		CHRIST THE KING	
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion	
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum	
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion	

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our congregation will host a community-wide Thanksgiving service TODAY at 4 p.m. Our friends at St. John's United Church of Christ and Salem United Methodist Church will participate in this service.

Let us gather together to give thanks to God for all the gifts and blessing given to us, our community, and our nation!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (11/19/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Kay Weidensaul; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Tom Wehr; LECTOR: Chris Long

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave Krewson ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

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

SERVING AT OUR COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE TODAY AT 4:00 PM

GREETER: Greg Sklar

USHERS: Jerry Henn and Jeff Ritschel

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (11/26/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Wayne Lutsey; LECTOR: Hope Clarke

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Mike Lado

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

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."

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will take place Sunday, December 10th! 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our Holly Jolly Christmas Party

Our second annual Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 9th in the church's gathering room. Show up any time between 10 a.m. and 12 Noon for Christmas crafts, games, and hot chocolate! This is an event for the children of our church AND our community (up to age 10) so spread the word and bring a friend!

Children's Christmas Pageant

The whole church is invited to attend our "no rehearsal" Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 10th, during the 10:30 a.m. service. There are no lines to learn and no practices to attend! Come to church during the 10:30 a.m. service, pick a costume, and join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior! Kids and adults of all ages are invited to participate!

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

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.

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.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

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

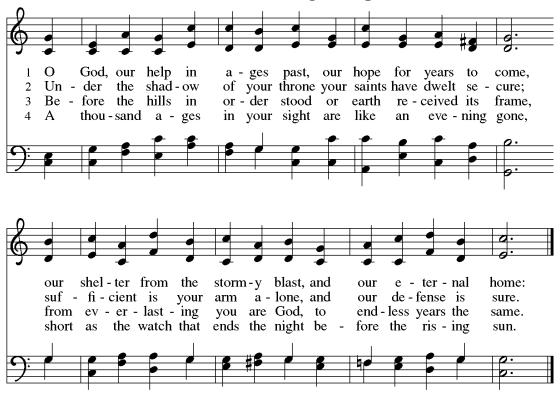
The cost of a 6.5" bloom plant is \$9.00.

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!

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:
Are you paying with CASH? or CHECK? CHECK #
Total # of Poinsettias: Total amount enclosed:

GATHERING HYMN "O God Our Help in Ages Past"



- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

WELCA NEWS

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.

A Christmas luncheon is scheduled at the McKeansburg Hotel on Thursday, December 7th at 12 noon to 3 PM. A sign-up sheet with menu and cost is at the gathering table..Deadline to register is Sunday, December 3rd.

Please donate any extra 2024 calendars you may have to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Place these at the gathering table by Dec. 14th.

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

"God of the Fertile Fields"



Reverend Michael T. Petresky
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton
Karen Travor, Treasurer
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager

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karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org cwlutsey@gmail.com jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org



SENDING HYMN "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

