

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 14, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

D. Cherwien

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**We confess that our hearts are we burdened our own sins
and the brokenness that binds us.**

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us for all we have done and left undone.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins have washed away; God remembers them no more!

Now live as children of God and rejoice in the promise of eternal life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

[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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM GENESIS

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸**The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

⁹And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A READING FROM ACTS

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

(Acts 19:1-7)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:4-11)

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Baptized in Water”
[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate God in flesh made manifest, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Guide this congregation to serve all people in our community and throughout the world following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the rivers, lakes, and streams which nourish your creation and allow fields to flourish and grow. Summon us as stewards and caretakers of the land to protect and share all its gifts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect those in broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors. Comfort those who are imprisoned or captive. Bring healing to those who suffer, especially everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give us courage to stand with those who live amid war and violence. Release us from all anger, free us from thoughts of revenge, and allow peace to rest in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Help us to trust in you who is eternally just and merciful. Grant us discernment and compassion as you lead us to walk in love. Renew our hope amid disappointment. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in your never-ending care. Embrace those who grieve and invite them to rest in your promise of resurrection life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

(The pastor concludes): Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8 AM)

“From Heaven Above”

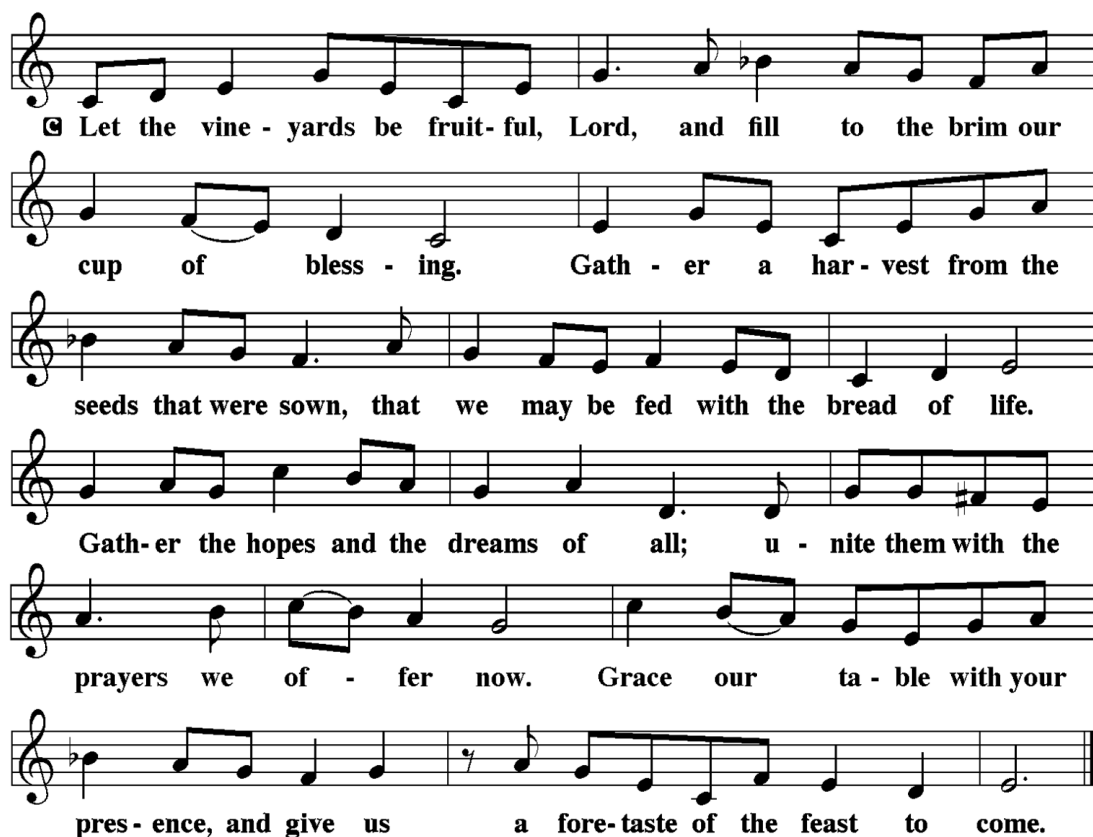
G. Walther

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

*“Walk in the Light”

arr. A. Thomas

OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards be fruitful, Lord”



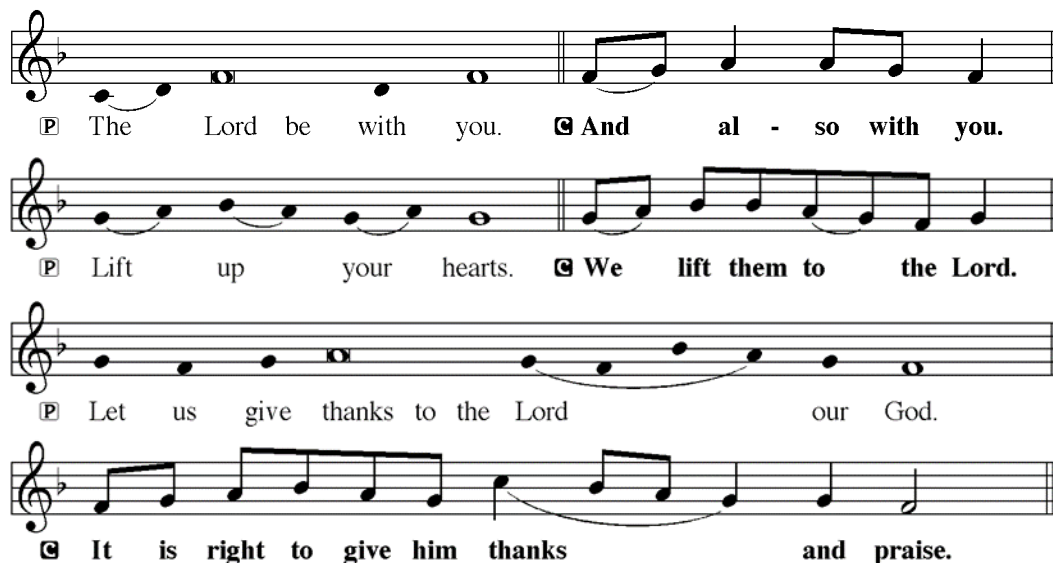
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, you are the source of all good gifts. Your Spirit invites us to gather at this table as we hear your word of life and share in a simple meal. Nourish us and help us to follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

MEAL

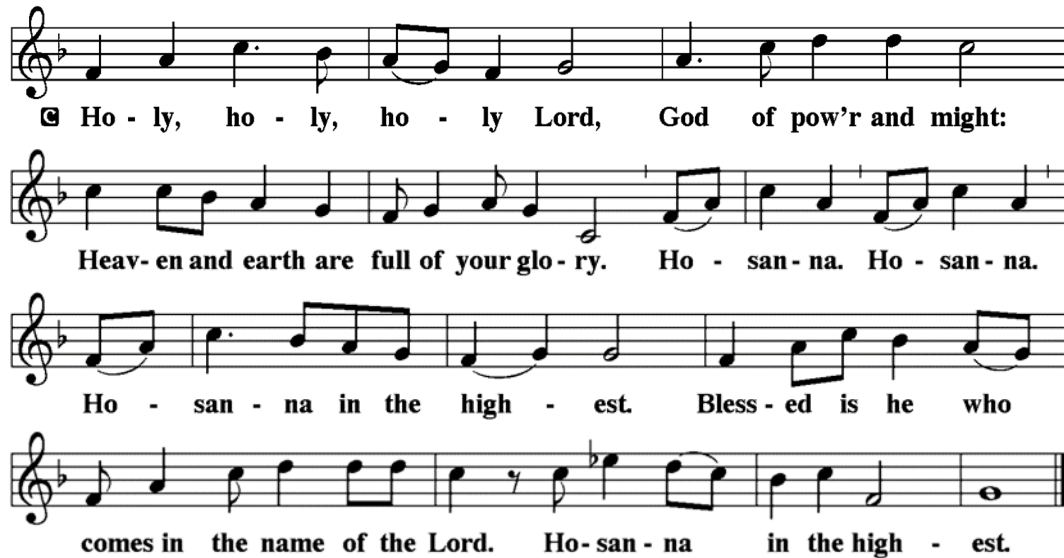
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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

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 (Read 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

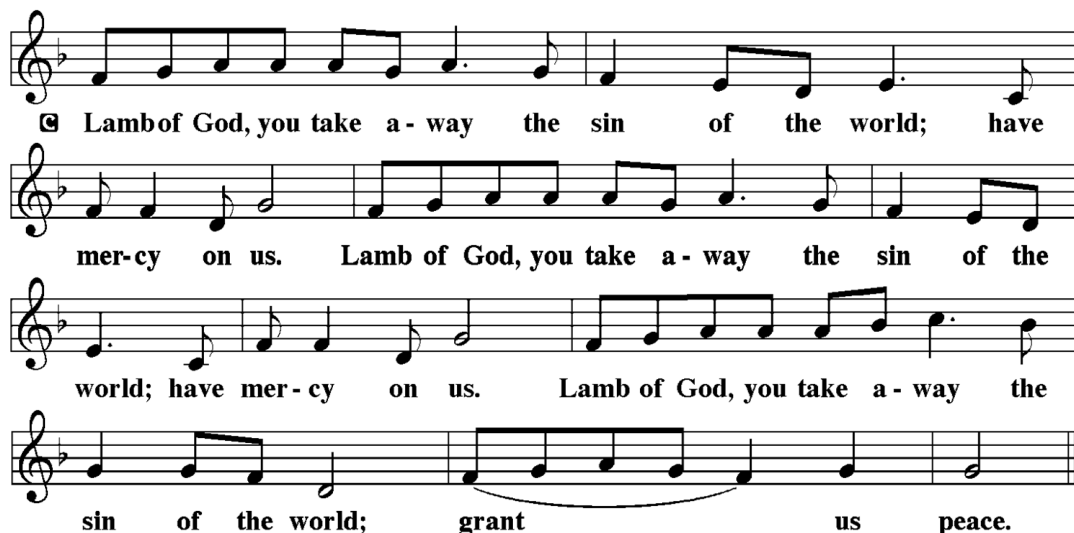
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After 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.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN “Spirit of God Descend upon My Heart”

[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

You claim us from the power of death and the devil, and you give us hope and abundant life. Abide with us in every storm and struggle, and teach us to love one another as you love us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: “God, Whose Almighty Word”

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “O Blessed Emmanuel”

J. S. Bach

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

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of my mother, Muriel Reibie, born January 15th and my brother, Ron “Buck” Reibie, born January 11th, by Sue Schenck.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Ann and Lamar Butler by Scott and Tina Butler

The Anthem *“Walk in the Light” was presented in honor of Tom and Gwen Wehr by Kathryn M. Snyder.

Introduction to the Day: Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (01/14/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Kista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR & COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Gwen Wehr

LECTOR: Doug Travor; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Doug Travor

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (01/21/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Kista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR & COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Tom Wehr

LECTOR: Kristin Durkee; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, January 14	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Teen Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Youth Sunday School
	3:00 PM	Winter Nature Series – Session 1
Monday, January 15		DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
	6:30 PM	Council
Wednesday, January 17	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, January 20	10:00 AM	Valentine Day Flowers and Cards
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, January 21	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:30 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place TODAY, Sunday, January 14! 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 18, 2024, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. In case of inclement weather, our annual meeting will be held on the following Sunday, February 25. Members should mark their new calendars for this important meeting!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please consider worshipping with us after the holidays. Take a copy of our January 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. While we treasure the past, we look forward to an even brighter future. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here to the glory of God!

WINTER NATURE SERIES EVENT

Peggy Hentz from the Red Creek Wildlife Center will speak at the first session of the 2024 Winter Nature Series at St. Paul's TODAY, Sunday, January 2024, 2024 at 3 p.m. Her topic is “How Owls Help Us to Understand God.” She will be accompanied by one of her owl friends and light refreshments will follow her presentation. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy!

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

GATHERING HYMN “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

STIC EVENT: VALENTINE DAY GIFTS FOR HOMEBOUND

The succulents which were propagated last year are growing but will need supplements. On Saturday, January 20, at 10 a.m. we will create Valentine Day gifts for the homebound. Come for coffee, creativity, and fellowship!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Baptized in Water”

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Members who use their envelopes to contribute to the ministry of this congregation can pick up their 2023 Giving Statements TODAY. Statements which are not picked up by Monday, January 22, 2024, will be sent to members via U.S. Mail.

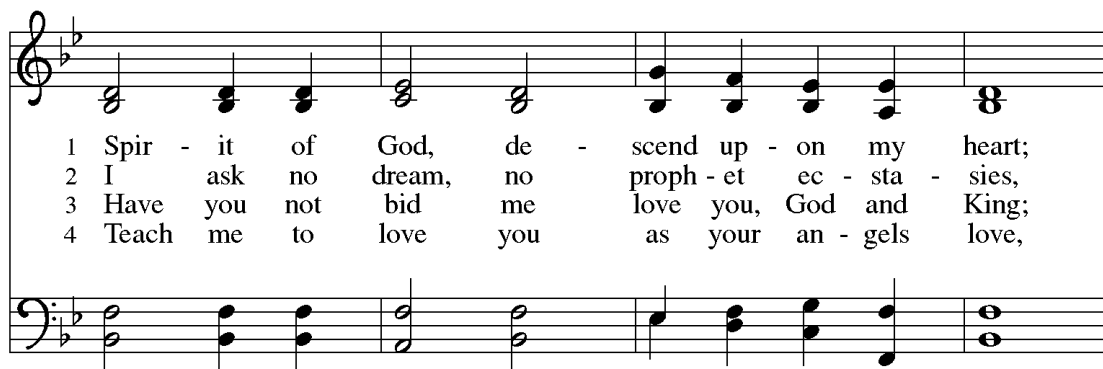
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Financial Secretary, Wayne Lutsey at by email: cwlutsey@gmail.com or by telephone: 570-617-9617.

SUPER BOWL EVE SOUP & CHILI SALE

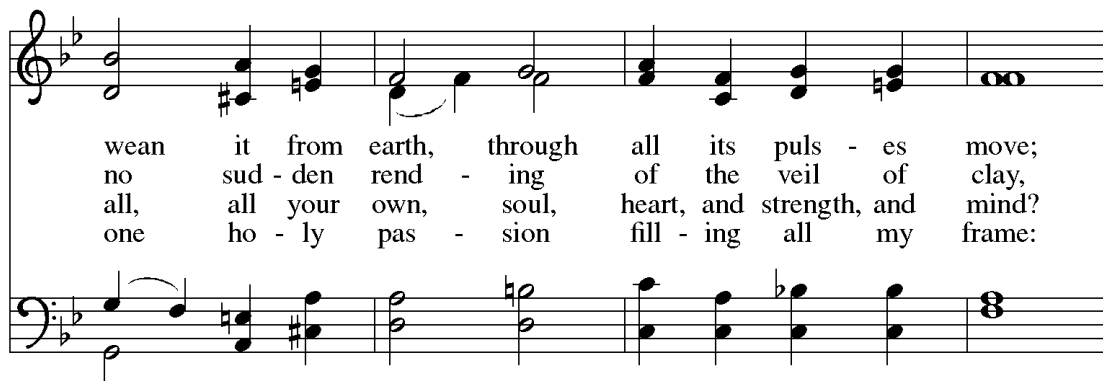
As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday on February 11, 2024, The Men of St. Paul's will host a Super Bowl Eve Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 10 beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square."

Come early for the best selection of delicious chilis, tasty homemade soups, and just baked breads and pastries.

COMMUNION HYMN “Spirit of God Descend upon My Heart”



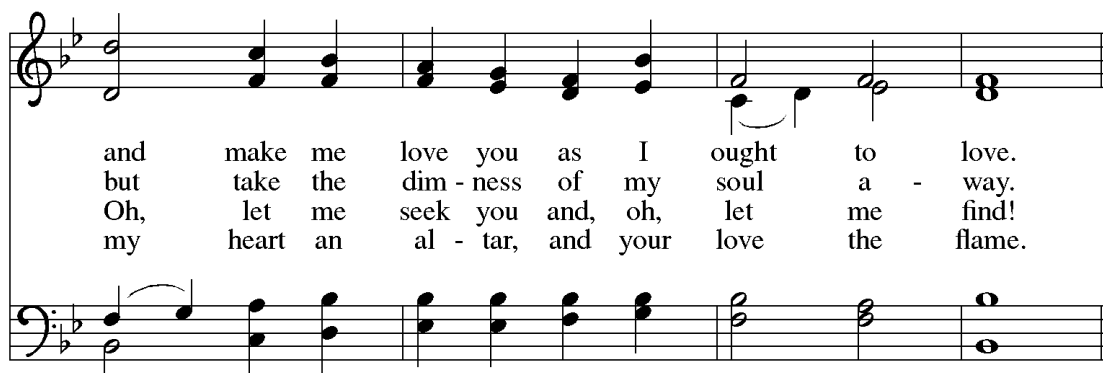
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



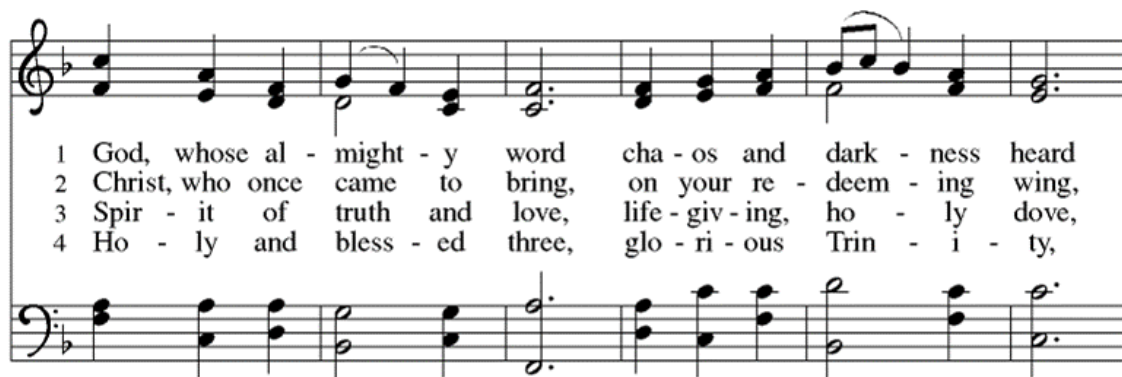
stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



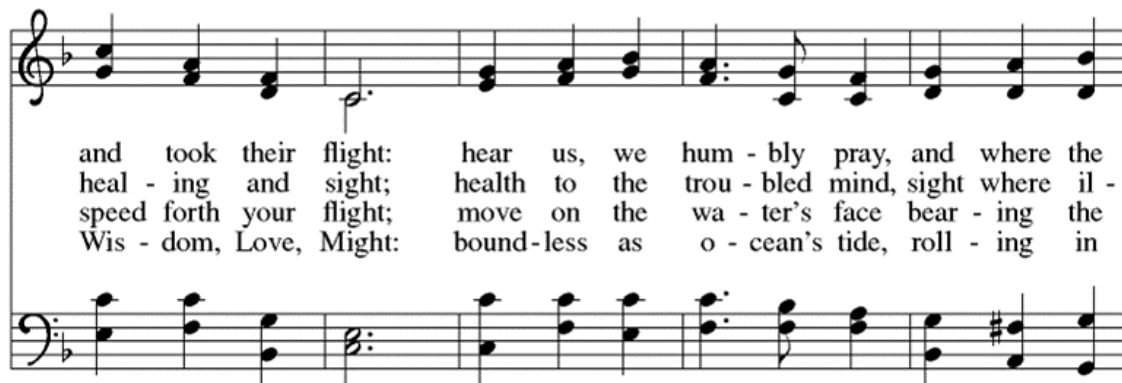
and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

SENDING HYMN

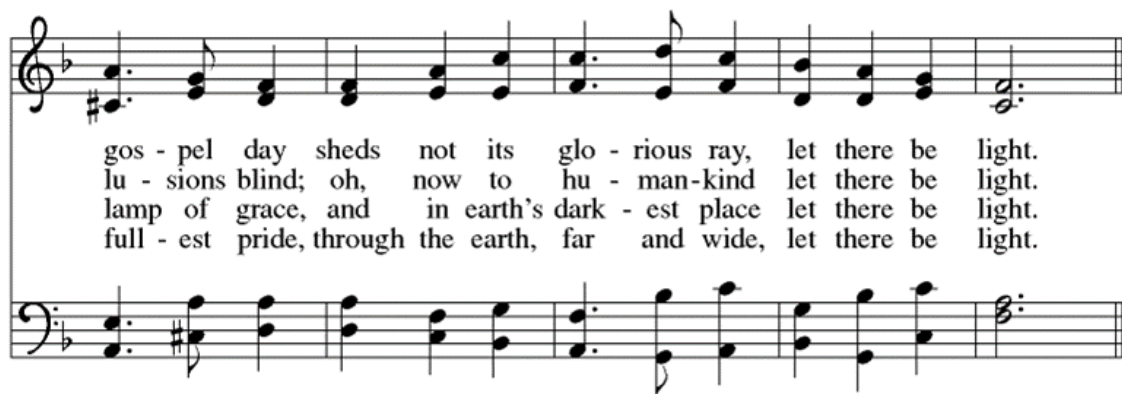
“God, Whose Almighty Word”



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.