

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 1, 2024

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Morning Hymn"

D. Lasky

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 "O God Beyond All Praising"
[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, without you we are weak and foolish creatures. Protect us from dangers around us and cleanse us from the evil which lies within us. Preserve us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

(Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 (Read responsively)

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honor those who fear the LORD;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

A READING FROM JAMES

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

(James 1:17-27)

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. Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

(Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

[See back of bulletin]

BLESSING OF OUR PRAYER SHAWLS

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe. We join all creation in thanking you for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to share all our gifts and serve those in need.

Bless Chaplain Erika Brown, her fellow chaplains, doctors, nurses, hospital staff, and everyone who cares for others at Geisinger/St. Luke’s Hospital.

Bless these beautiful prayer shawls. Bless those who made them and everyone who will receive them. May these prayer shawls warm weakened bodies, soothe troubled spirits, and remind those who receive them that they are valued and loved.

Almighty and ever-living God, you love us more than we can hope for or imagine. Help us to be your living body here on earth, so the hungry may be fed, the homeless may find shelter, the naked may be clothed, the weary may find rest, the prisoner may be comforted, stranger may be welcomed, and everyone everywhere may know your boundless love.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, 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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it may be a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Help us to welcome all who suffer and seek your protection. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals may thrive and flourish. Teach us to protect all things which you have made good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for everyone in positions of authority. Raise up people who are wise and discerning and help them to be a blessing to others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Open our hearts to share with everyone who is unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick, injured, or ill. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Bring healing to all who suffer and strengthen all healthcare providers as they strive to care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for our faithful departed who in word and deed witnessed to your truth and love. Inspire us by their example and daily renew us in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

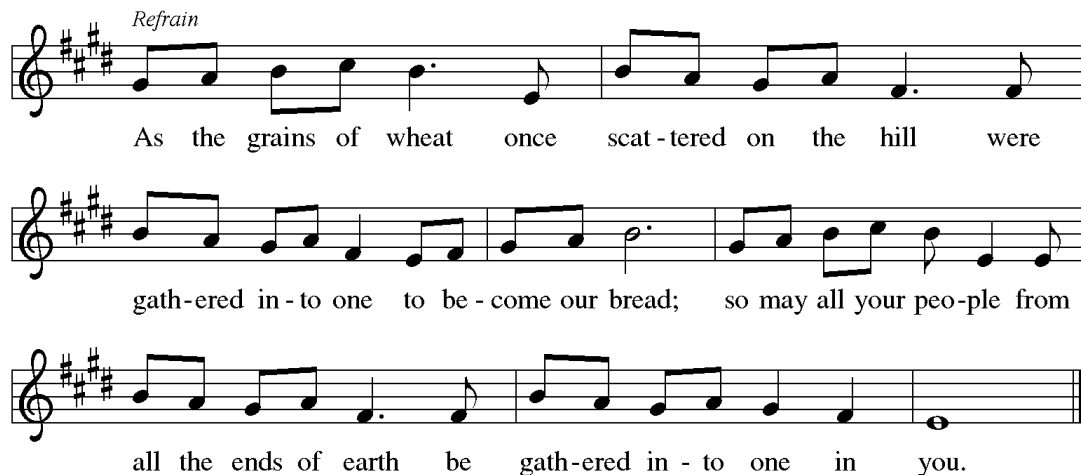
"Fairest Lord Jesus"

M. McDonald

OFFERTORY HYMN

"As the 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 and a final double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table and invited us to this bountiful feast. As we share this meal, strengthen us in faith and transform us, so that we can be your living body for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

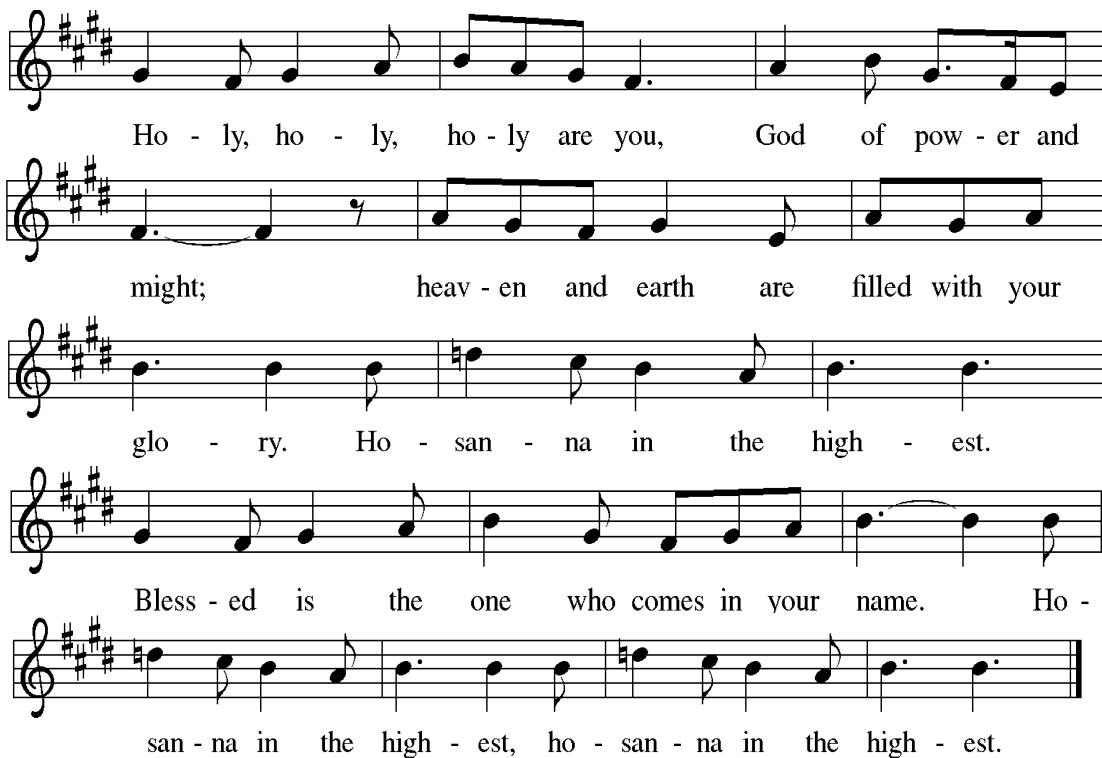
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

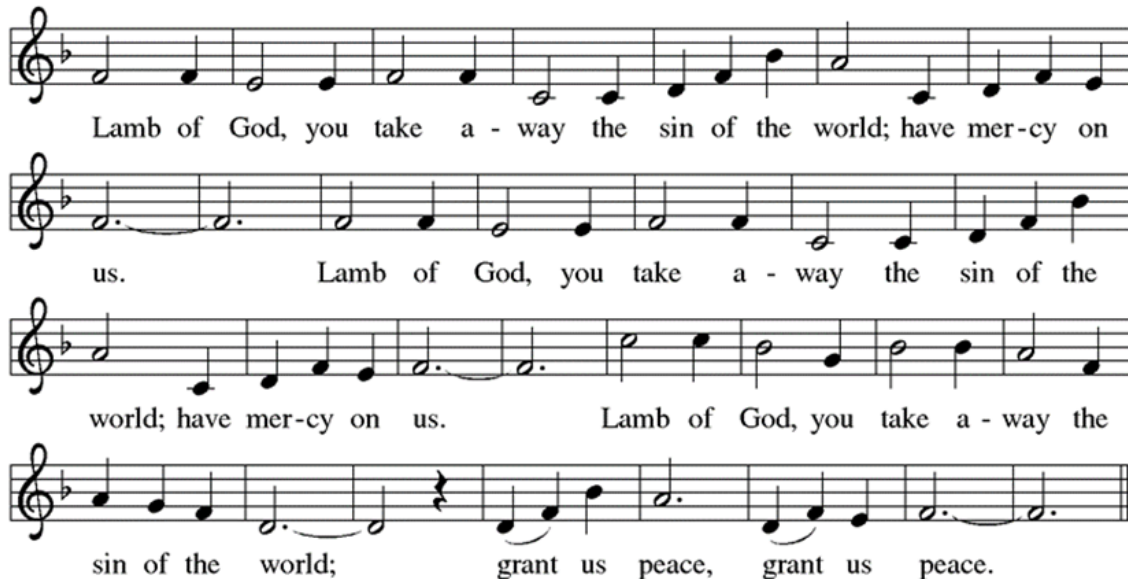
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After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

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those seated 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth” [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 “Give to Our God Immortal Praise” [See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Festive Voluntary"

R. Lau

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THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 1	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, September 2		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Church Office Closed
Thursday, September 5	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Friday, September 6	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Landingville
Saturday, September 7	9 AM - 3PM	Heritage Day
	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, September 8	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum and Youth Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion “God’s Work. Our Hands “Sunday “Second Sunday” Sunday School Begins

SERVING TODAY (9/1/24)

9:30 AM

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Karen Shoener
LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/8/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Becky Smoot; LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Reier
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

Introduction to the day: Jesus warns against treating human traditions as if they were God’s laws, while ignoring the true meaning of God’s law. He teaches that impurity comes from within our hearts, not from external things. Last week, Jesus said, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). James adds that God has given us new life through the word of truth.

GATHERING HYMN "O God Beyond All Praising"



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Our annual Service Ministry Bazaar is set for Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall. The event will feature good food, a large auction of gift baskets, local vendors and crafters selling their wares, homemade candies and pies for purchase, and an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. Proceeds will benefit those in need in our community.

NOTE: If you have glass quart jars from previous bazaar events, please bring them to the church so that they can be reused. Thank you!

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

“REGULAR” WORSHIP RETURNS!

We will return to our regular worship schedule next Sunday, September 8. Worship services will be held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. We will continue to share Holy Communion on the first Saturday of the month and at every Sunday service.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC!

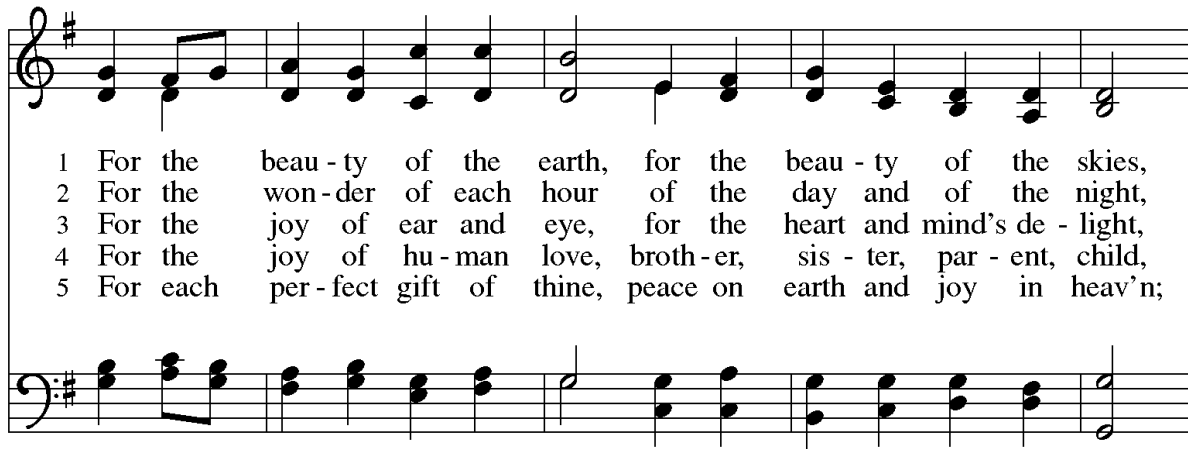
Everyone, young and old, is invited to participate in our annual church picnic at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, September 29, immediately following the 10:30 am service. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Evangelism Committee. Covered-dish items to share are appreciated but not required. Donations for Bingo prizes are much appreciated. A signup sheet will be placed in the gathering room in September. Hope to see you at the picnic!

GWOH SUNDAY!

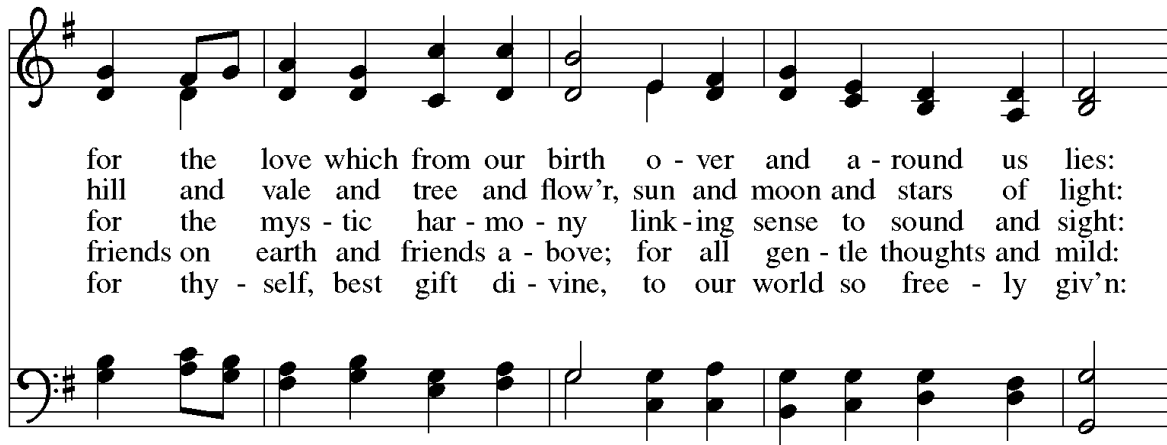
This year we collected items for Servants to All – My Father’s House in Pottsville, PA, as our congregation’s “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project. We will bless those items next Sunday, September 8, 2024.

COMMUNION HYMN

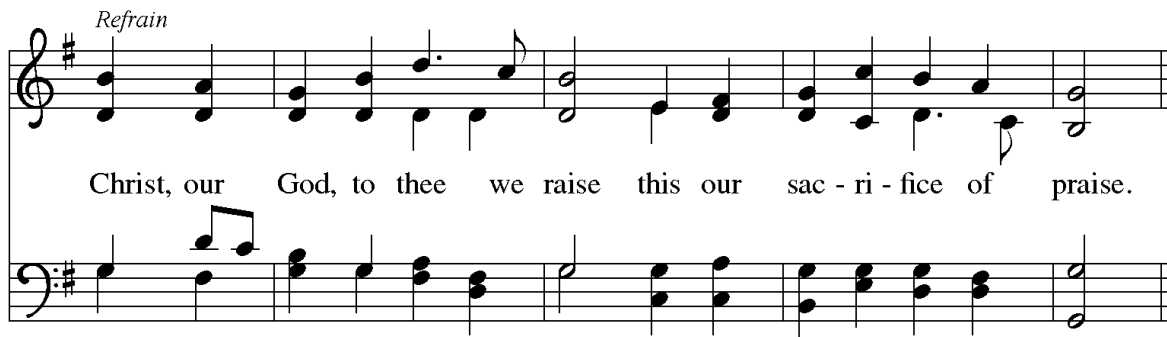
“For the Beauty of the Earth”



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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	No Email
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

SENDING HYMN “Give to Our God Immortal Praise”



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

WHERE ARE OUR OFFERING PLATES?

Our offering plate is in the back of the church near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering and have not already done so, please place your offering in the plate before worship begins or as you leave the church.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God!