

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" R. Anderson

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

We praise you, Almighty God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light candles on this wreath, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us, so we may shine in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace so that our hearts may welcome him with joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

"We Are Waiting for Jesus" [Two candles are lit.]

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "We Are Waiting for Jesus". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the first verse. The music is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with rests. The lyrics are: '1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.', 'We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.', 'Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.', and 'We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.'

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess now our sins.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O God of love and forgiveness,

we confess that we have lost our way and are captive to sin.

We have neither welcomed the stranger, nor loved our neighbor.

We have not shared your good gifts with those in need.

Open our eyes, our hearts, and our hands

that we may be reconciled and renewed by the light of Christ. Amen.

Know that through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven,

and that you are freed to live as children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway”
[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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

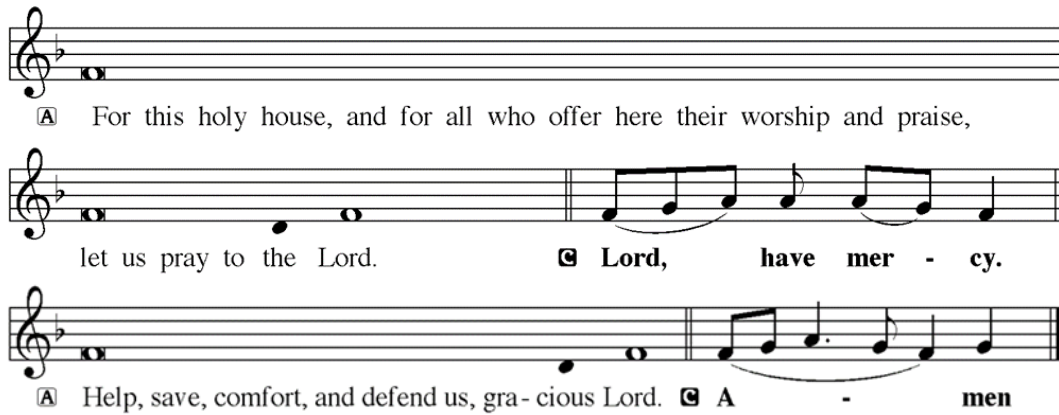
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare for your only Son. By his coming, strengthen us to serve you with pure and holy lives; through 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 MALACHI

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

(Malachi 3:1-4)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM LUKE

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,
 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
 that we would be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."
(Luke 1:68-79)

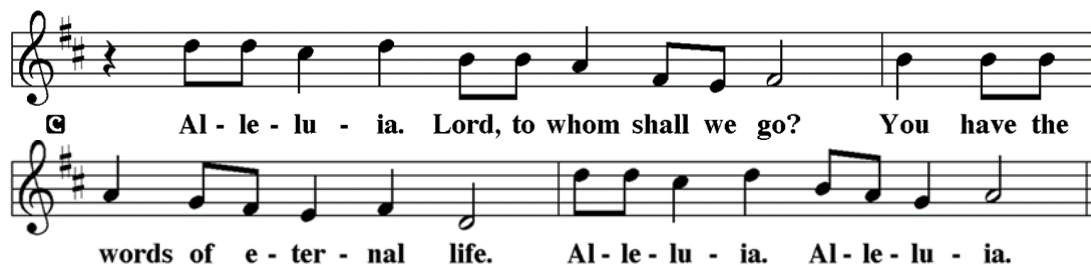
A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.
(Philippians 1:3-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

(Luke 3:1-6)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”
[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 prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places
that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Give your church courage to do your will. Help us raise leaders to share the good
news. Strengthen our faith in challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our
prayer.**

Guide us to be good stewards of your creation. Restore land devastated by wind,
rain, and storm. Protect all who live in the path of disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Strengthen our leaders to act with justice and mercy. Lighten the burdens of those
who are unjustly imprisoned. Bring hope to those who despair. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Comfort and bring healing to those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. We
especially pray for everyone on our prayer list -- and all who grieve even as they
prepare for Christmas. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Deepen our relationships with one another. Make us aware of our diverse talents
and gifts. Unite us in a single shared mission to serve our neighbors in need. Lord,
in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We thank you for the lives of those we love who now rest in you. Comfort us with
the hope of new life, where pain, sorrow, tears, and death, do not exist. Lord, in
your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "Savior of the Nations, Come"

A. Vetter

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Advent Peace Canon"

R.E. Schram

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

Merciful God, we offer the gifts of our hearts and lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

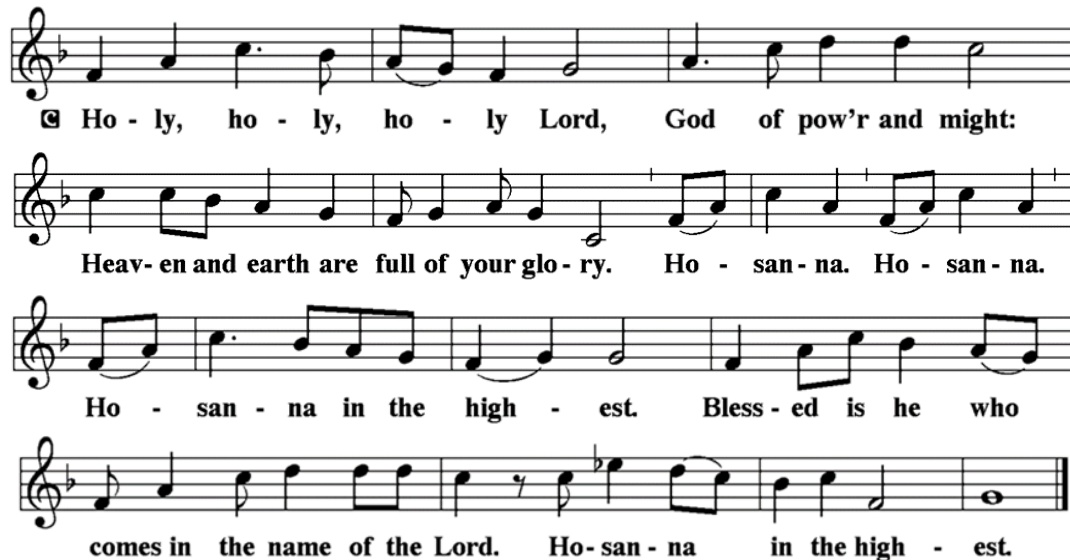
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your living Word who dwelled among us, full of grace and truth.
In his death and resurrection, we rejoice in our new birth
and we look with hope for his coming again in glory. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Dwell among us and bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and fill us with your light.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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

□ 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

“Christ, Be Our Light”
[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

Almighty and eternal God, help us to carry your Word into the world so that everyone might know your abundant mercy and amazing grace, we ask this by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God protect you from all evil.
May you abide in hope and abound in faith.
May you love God and serve your neighbor with great joy
until that day when Christ comes again. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Grant Us Peace"

W. A. Mozart

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Introduction to the Day: Forerunners and messengers announce the coming of our God. While John the Baptist's voice in the wilderness is a key focus today, Malachi's prophecy also heralds the coming of Christ as a forerunner of the Lord of hosts. All who are baptized are called to share the gospel. By doing so, we prepare the way for Christ's coming and help everyone envision the "salvation of God."

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Clark “Duke” Schenck, whom we lost 12/11/06, by Sue, Kurt, and Juli.

POINSETTIA PLANTS

If you have donated poinsettia plants for Christmas and do not want to take them home, please call our church office and leave a message on our answering machine.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/8/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Amy Dewald
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Glenda Bright; LECTOR: Sue Schenck
COMMUNION ASST.: Wayne Lutsey
ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/15/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Connie Teter
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: David Kriner; LECTOR: Elinda Lado
COMMUNION ASST.: Dave Krewson
ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Becky Smoot
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

2025 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 coming year.

ANGEL TREE

Our annual "Angel Tree" project provides gifts to local school-age children whose families visit the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Please contact Deb Bolinsky at (570)789-3540 or debbolinsky@gmail.com with questions or concerns. The deadline to return all gifts is Sunday, December 15.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will be held Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m. Our program includes traditional carols, music by St. Paul's Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists. Join us for light refreshments and fellowship following the concert.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 8

2nd ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY

8:00 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 AM

Adult Forum and Youth Sunday School

9 to 10:15 AM

Second Sunday Snacks and Fellowship

10:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

Children's Sunday School

*Crafters' Guild Open House in the
basement following both services.*

11:30 AM

Finance

Monday, December 9

7:00 PM

Council

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 PM

Bell Choir

7:00 PM

Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 7

5:30 PM

Worship

Sunday, December 15

3rd ADVENT

8:00 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 AM

Adult Forum

10:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

4:00 PM

Christmas Concert

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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, we will hold a "No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant" during our 5:00 p.m. service. Children and adults are invited to participate in the story of our Lord's birth. At 9:00 p.m., we will hold our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight and carol service. Holy Communion will be shared at both services. Please come and bring a friend or neighbor!

GATHERING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.


Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!


“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will take place TODAY, December 8! Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. (Parents are invited to stay and enjoy fellowship time with snacks and coffee while their children are in class.) Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

SPONSOR A CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX

For only \$30 you can sponsor a Christmas dinner for a local family. Just write a check to Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry with "Holiday Dinner Box" in the memo line and drop it in our offering plate. We will ensure it reaches the Pantry. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry.

COMMUNION HYMN “Christ, Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

A CALL TO FAITHFUL GIVING

As we reflect and give thanks, we have an opportunity to see how much our generosity helps our church and community. Every donation, big or small, shows our dedication to Christ's teachings of love and service to our neighbors.

Our church needs your support more than ever. Your contributions keep our church running, allow us to grow our outreach programs, help those in need, and provide a welcoming space for all. Please consider increasing your giving now - and in the coming year.

SENDING HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
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Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. to 12 NOON