

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 17, 2025

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Softly and Tenderly" W. Thompson
Angela Dowd, cello

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.

[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

O God eternal, you burn with love for justice and break the chains of oppression. Give us boldness to stand with all who suffer from violence, greed, and injustice. Like saints before us, may we fearlessly speak your truth as we look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD**A READING FROM JEREMIAH**

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

(Jeremiah 23:23–29)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM 82** (Read responsively)

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

²**“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?”**

³Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

⁸**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

A READING FROM HEBREWS

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 11:29–12:2)

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. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

(Luke 12:49-56)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

(#669)

[See back of bulletin]

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read 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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church throughout the world. Inspire missionaries to walk with our partners in the gospel in solidarity and mutual support. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect rivers and lakes from pollution. Bless the work of conservationists, policymakers, and advocates who strive to preserve and promote clean water. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Heal political divisions throughout our government. Strengthen the efforts of lawmakers who are committed to justice and the protection of the vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who suffer in isolation—those imprisoned, captive, displaced, ill, or homebound. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list and for all who grieve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation as they prepare for the coming program year. Stir up in us a spirit of unity and support among all our members. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the cloud of faithful witnesses who surround us. May their words and deeds inspire us to persevere until we join them in your eternal praise. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Air on the G String"
Angela Dowd, violin

J. S. Bach

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

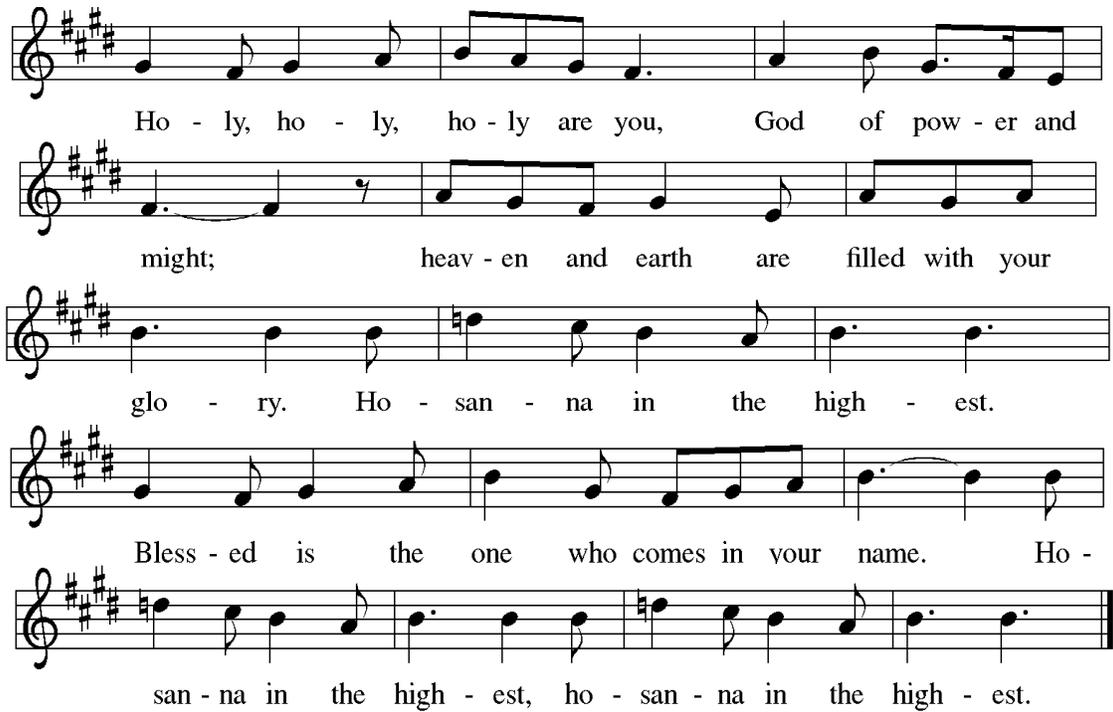
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 (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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Lord's banquet is now ready. All are welcome.
Let us taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

INSTRUCTIONS

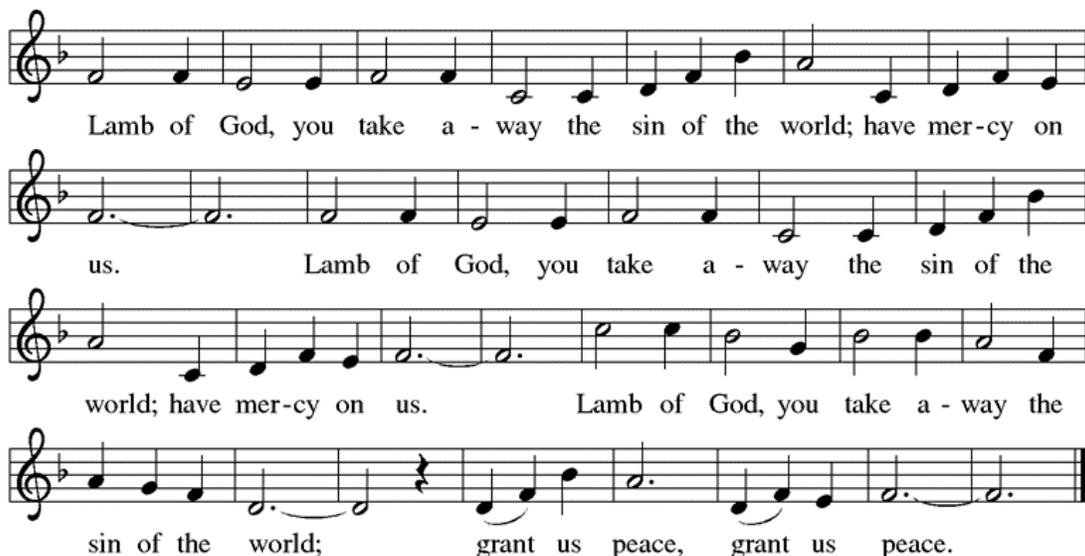
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one from the pastor.

If you (or your child) would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand.

We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Here I Am Lord"
Angela Dowd, cello

D. Schutte

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

(#805)

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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

Altar flowers are presented in memory of my grandparents, George and Frieda Somers, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: God’s word is like fire, refining and revealing. Jesus calls for our full devotion and leads us forth in faith. Today, we worship with Word & Sacrament amid a great cloud of witnesses, looking to Jesus Christ—the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be held **NEXT** Sunday, August 24, at our 9:30 a.m. service. Teachers, students, school staff, parents, and guardians are invited to attend. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, August 17 9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion
Refreshments following the service

Saturday, August 23 5:30 PM Worship

Sunday, August 24
9:30 AM The Blessing of the Backpacks
Worship with Holy Communion
Refreshments following the service

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (8/17/25)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Elizabeth Dewald
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/24/25)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Gwen Wehr; LECTOR: Eric Eger
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Wayne Lutsey
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

BOOK DRIVE FOR YOUNG READERS

Our Service Ministry Committee is collecting new or gently used books for little ones—infants through early readers—to benefit families at the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. Drop your donations in the narthex box. Thank you for your generosity!

JOIN US FOR A KITCHEN "SHOWER"!

Everyone is invited to a special kitchen "shower" in Reidler Hall following our service on Sunday, August 24. Help us stock our church kitchen with the essentials it needs to support celebrations, events, and good fellowship. The Reidler Hall Committee has selected a host of items, and your donations are truly appreciated. For more details, please contact Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522 or Deb Bolinsky at 570-789-3540.

THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!

We look forward to seeing you again. Stay in touch by picking up our newsletter, visiting our website, following us on Facebook, or watching our weekly video on YouTube. While we cherish our rich Lutheran heritage, our spirit is rooted in embracing God's love. Let us worship together, grow in faith, and help our neighbor -- for the glory of God.

“REGULAR” WORSHIP RETURNS

Beginning on Sunday, September 7, we will return to our regular worship schedule. Services will be held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be shared on the first Saturday of each month and at every Sunday service.

CEMETERY FUND

Your donations to our Cemetery Fund help to cover our mowing and essential maintenance. To contribute, simply mark “Cemetery Fund” on the memo line of your check or use a “Cemetery Fund” envelope located in our narthex.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

This summer we are collecting donations for *Servants to All – My Father’s House* our “God’s Work. Our Hands.” outreach.

Items most needed include:

Hygiene supplies: tampons/pads, toothbrushes, toothpastes, deodorants, soaps, wet wipes, disposable razors, lotions, bath towels, and washcloths (new or gently used).

Bedding: twin or full-sized sheet sets, blankets, pillows, and pillowcases (new or gently used).

Cleaning supplies: all-purpose cleaners, laundry detergents, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, mops, brooms, and buckets.

“GWOH Sunday” is September 14. Let’s help our neighbors in need! Thank you for your generosity!

BROWSE & TAKE A BOOK

The Library Ladies continue making space for fresh titles by sharing older books with the congregation. Stop by the table in the Gathering Room and pick out a few to take home and enjoy. New selections will soon be added to the Library Corner!

GATHERING HYMN "How Firm a Foundation"



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

STiC NEWS

Don't forget to bring in your walking logs for the "Walk to Soweto." Any amount of walking or outdoor activity counts as miles for the journey.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Rise Up, O Saints of God”

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Everyone is welcome—young and old—to our annual Church Picnic at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, September 21, right after the 10:30 a.m. service. We will provide hot dogs and beverages. Please bring a covered dish to share, if you’re able. We welcome donations for bingo prizes. There will be games and activities for all ages. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gathering Room in September, so we can plan for enough food and drinks.

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 Tavor, 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

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

SENDING HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Our offering plates are in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your generosity.