

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 7, 2025

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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.

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

Direct us, O Lord God, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD**A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY**

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 (Read responsively)

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

A READING FROM PHILEMON

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. (Philemon 1-21)

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.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them,
²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children,
brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does
not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you,
intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see
whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation
and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This
fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage
war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able
with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?
³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks
for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you
do not give up all your possessions.”

(Luke 14:25-33)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Take My Life, That I May Be”

(#685)

[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.

We pray for the church. Help us to affirm all that is life-giving and battle against the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Help us to make good choices with all that you have given us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to provide for those who live at the margins. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list and those whose needs are known only to you. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Refresh our hearts and help us to forgive as we are forgiven. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We thank you for all your saints. Strengthen us to do what is good and right even when it is unpopular, and dangerous to do so. God of grace, **receive 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

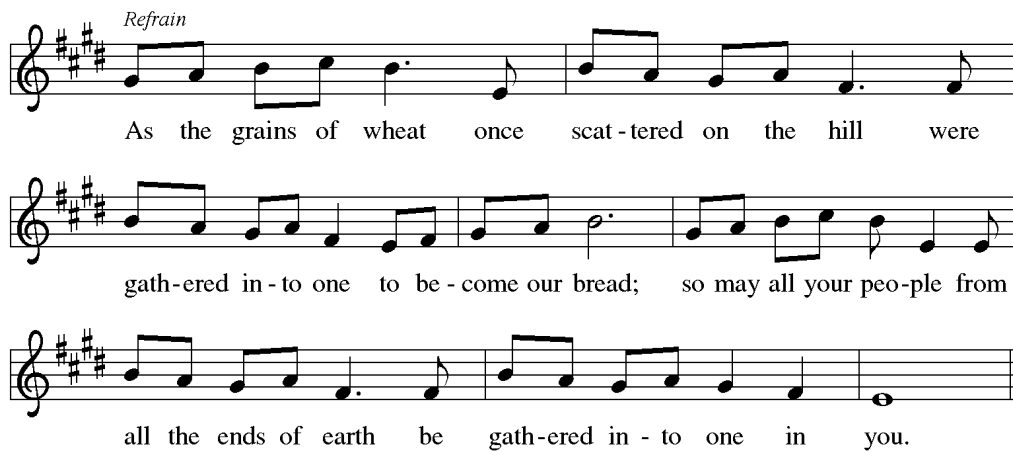
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

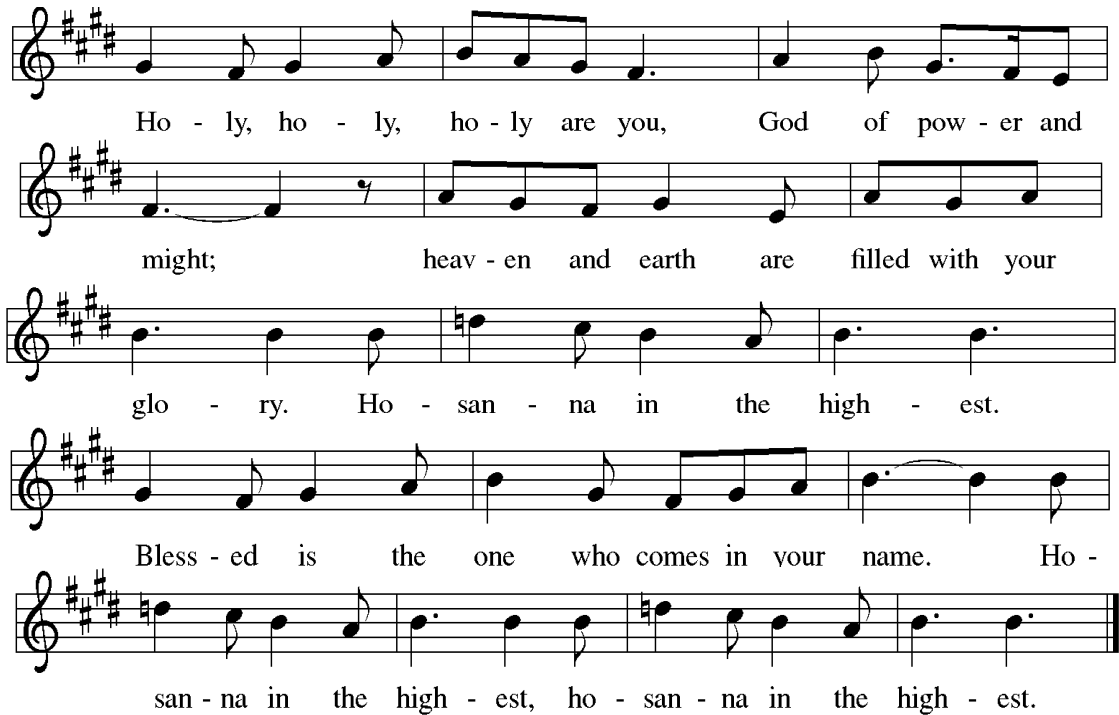
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

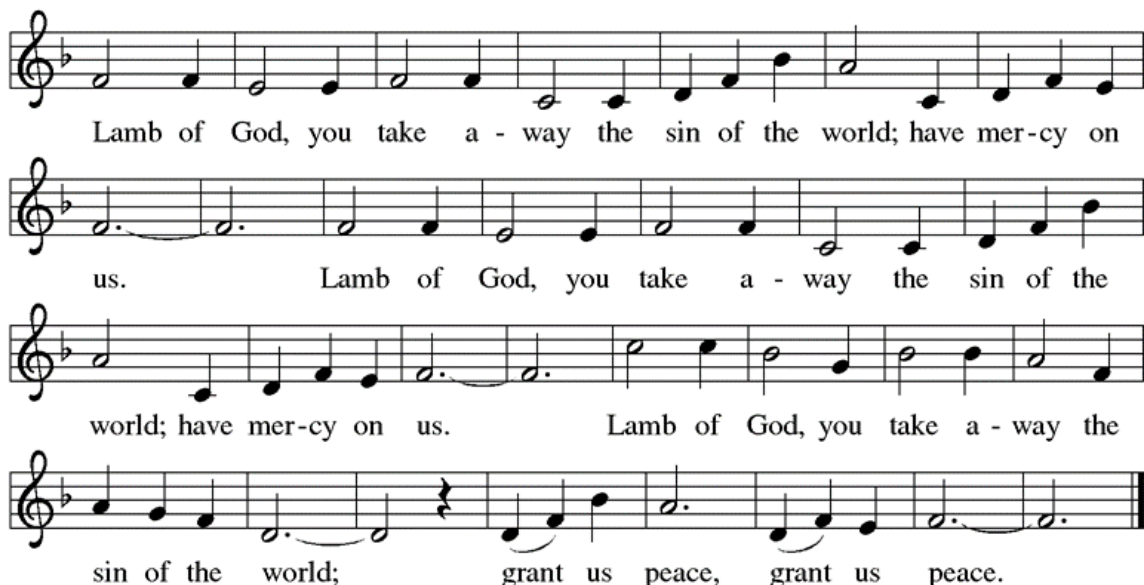
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require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

(#798)

[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

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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

(#810)

[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 parents, Guy and Frances Lengel, by James Lengel.

Bulletins are presented in memory of my husband, David, by Barb Sterner.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: As we gather today, we are invited to reflect on the cost of following Christ. Paul’s appeal to Philemon—“Refresh my heart in Christ”—becomes our own prayer, echoing our longing for renewal and grace. In the presence of Christ, by Word and Sacrament, we are empowered to choose life—life firmly rooted in our Lord and Savior.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School team is busy planning for the upcoming term which will begin NEXT SUNDAY, September 14, 2025! If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Sunday School program, please contact me. Any amount of time or effort would be greatly appreciated!

Sarah Eger - 570-394-3522 (cell) - swoodring86@hotmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 7	8 & 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, September 8	1:00 PM	Rainbow Friends
	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, September 9	1:00 PM	WELCA
	6:30PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, September 10	12 Noon	Crafters' Guild
	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Thursday, September 11	7:00 PM	Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, September 13	5:30 PM	Worship

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (9/7/25)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Jerry Goessel; LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Bill Smoot
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/14/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Karen Travor; LECTOR: Hope Clarke
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kristin Durkee
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

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 God's love. Together let us grow in faith and help our neighbor -- for the glory of God.

GATHERING HYMN

“This Is My Father’s World”

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

HYMN OF THE DAY “Take My Life, That I May Be”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

KITCHEN “SHOWER” UPDATE

The Reidler Hall Committee would like to extend a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of our Kitchen Shower last Sunday! Whether you helped with inventory and shopping, cleaning and set-up, preparing delicious treats or by showing up with a smile and your checkbook :your support was greatly appreciated and made the event an incredible success!

We're not finished with the lower level but please know that your enthusiasm and participation at the Kitchen Shower gave us a big shot of motivation as we continue on towards the finish line!!!

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.

COMMUNION HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me?"



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



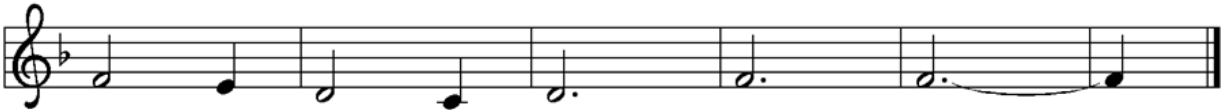
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



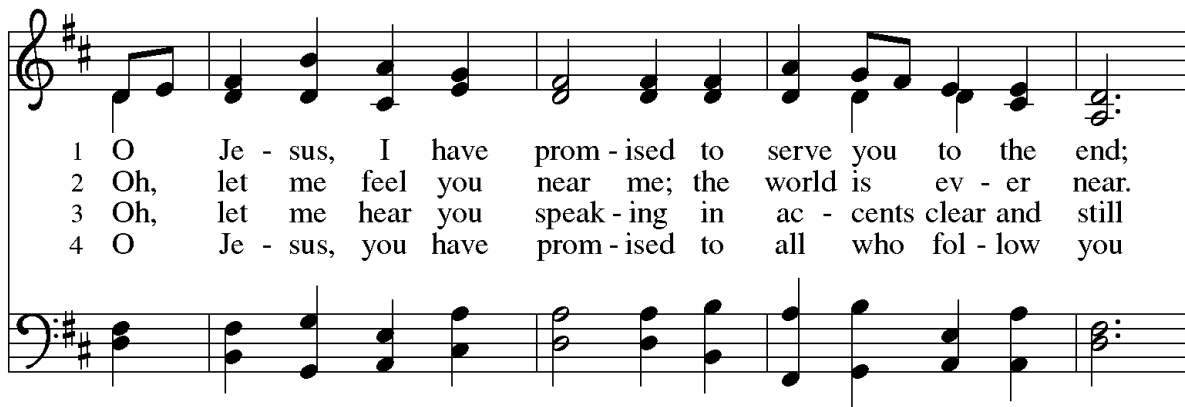
name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

SENDING HYMN

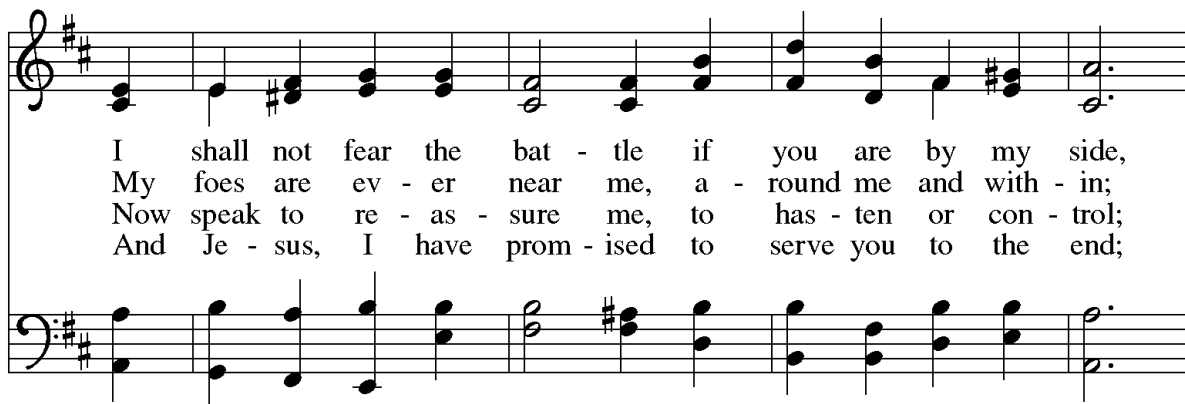
“O Jesus, I Have Promised”




1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

This summer we collected hygiene Supplies, bedding, and cleaning supplies for *Servants to All – My Father’s House* as our congregation’s “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project. NEXT SUNDAY, September 14, we will bless our donations, those who will distribute them, and all who will receive them. Let us give thanks to God!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Everyone is invited to come to our annual church picnic at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, September 21. This event will follow our 10:30 a.m. service at the church. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Evangelism Committee. Covered dishes to share are welcome but not required. There will be games for all ages, and donations for Bingo prizes are appreciated.

A sign-up sheet is in our gathering room. Please sign up by Friday, September 19, so we can provide enough hot dogs and beverages for everyone. Hope to see you at the picnic!

SERVICE MINISTRY BAZAAR

Our Service Ministry will host its annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Reidler Hall. The event will include delicious food, an auction of gift baskets, vendors and crafters offering handmade items, and homemade candies and pies for purchase. It’s also a great chance to catch up with your friends and neighbors.

Sign-up sheets to volunteer your time or provide needed items are in the Gathering Room. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser will help individuals and families in need in our area. Please join us for this special community event!

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