

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9, 2026

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Prelude in E Flat"

G. F. Handel

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, our strong defender, storms rage around us and within us, and our hearts grow fearful. Rescue your people from despair, lift your sons and daughters from every fear, and keep us steadfast in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM FIRST KINGS

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

(1 Kings 19:9-18)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 (Read Responsively)

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹²The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

A READING FROM ROMANS

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

(Romans 10:5-15)

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. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²[Then Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

(Matthew 14:22-33)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"
[See back of bulletin]

(#755)

THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE REVEREND ROBERT C. REIER

Let us give thanks for the long and faithful ministry of our co-worker in Christ Jesus, the Reverend Robert Carl Reier, and for the work of the Holy Spirit in the church and in the whole world.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for pouring out your Spirit upon the church and raising up faithful servants in every generation. We especially thank you for Pastor Reier. As you have blessed him through 45 years of pastoral ministry, grant that he may continue to fulfill his ordination vows, serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your holy name.

Bless all who hold authority in your church, especially Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, our synodical Bishop Christopher deForest, and all pastors, and lay leaders. Grant that by their service, faith may abound and your kingdom increase.

Pastor Reier, may the Lord be with you in your going out and your coming in. May the Lord fill your heart and mind with his love in Jesus Christ. May the Lord empower you to share that love with all whose lives you touch. May the Lord strengthen your body and spirit to live in faith and serve with joy. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Give courage to your church amid storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." May we follow Christ wherever he leads. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protect your creation from exploitation and abuse. Help us to sustain and be sustained by the resources that you have given to us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know true justice and lasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort who are lonely, sorrowful, angry, and in despair. We especially pray for all who are far from home and everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are new to this community. Help this congregation be a place of true hospitality and abundant Christian love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Through your saints, we have witnessed the joys and challenges of living in faith. On this day we especially give thanks for our brother in Christ, Pastor Robert C. Reier and his ministry. Keep us steadfast in your word and strengthen us through your holy sacraments. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

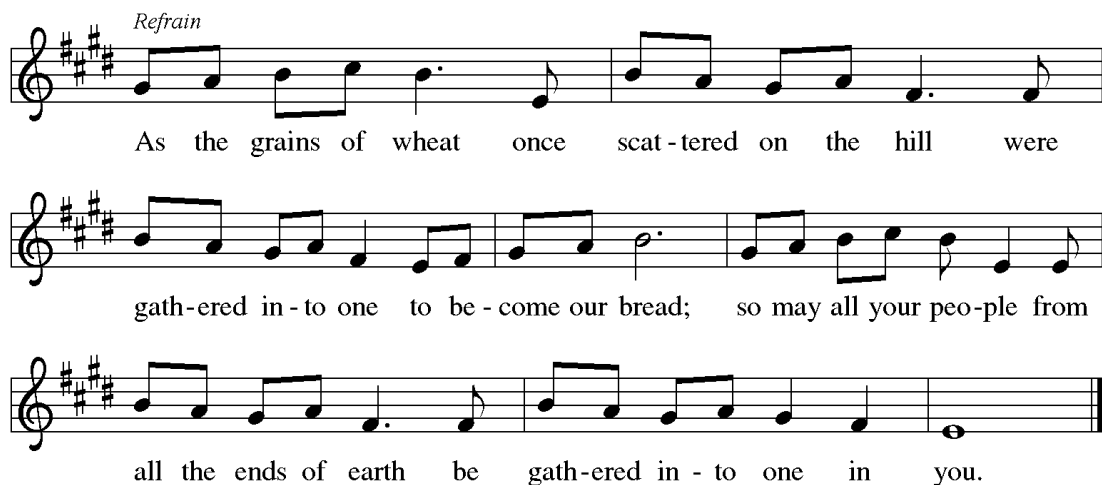
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

L. Larson

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As 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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. 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 melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

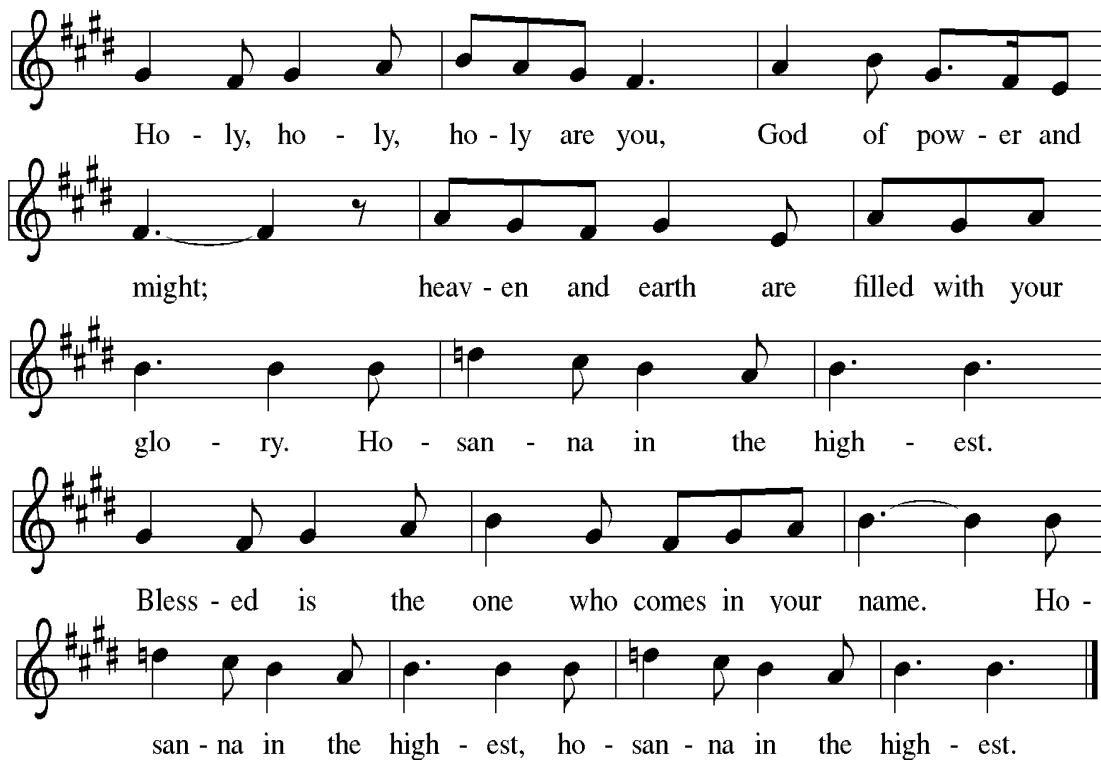
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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 ready. All who seek forgiveness and healing are welcome.
Let us taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

INSTRUCTIONS

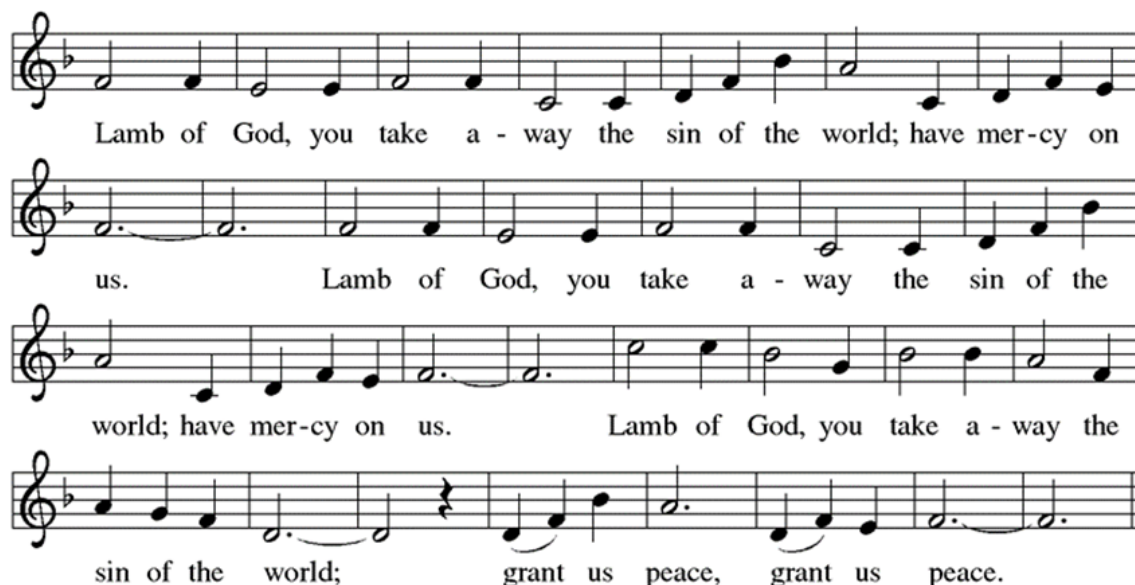
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require 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 "It Is Well with My Soul"
[See back of bulletin]

(#785)

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 “My Life Flows On In Endless Song” (#763)
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Lord of Life"

D. Paxton

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Altar flowers are presented in memory of our 60th wedding anniversary by Gwen Wehr.

SUMMER “BOOK DRIVE”

Our Service Ministry committee is seeking donations of new or gently used books for infants, preschool-aged children, and early readers. These books will benefit families served by our Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. Books can open the minds of children and young people even among families who are facing serious difficulties. This book drive will run from July 1 through August 31 and a box for donations is in the narthex. Please be generous!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (8/9/26)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Chris Long; USHER: Bill Smoot; LECTOR: Hope Clarke

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke, Sue Schenck, and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/16/26)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Cindy Ritschel;

LECTOR: Samantha Patel Clarke; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke, Sue Schenck, and Barb Sterner

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, August 9	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
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Monday, August 10	7:00 PM	Council
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Thursday, August 13	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
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Saturday, August 15	5:30 PM	Worship
	6:00 PM	Progressive Picnic

Sunday, August 16		"God's Work, Our Hand's" Sunday
	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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.

PROGRESSIVE PICNIC SET

Our Progressive Picnic scheduled for this Saturday, August 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. will be held at the home of Steve and Robin Zimmerman. Come for good food and good fellowship. A sign-up sheet is located at the gathering room. Questions? Please call our church office!

CRAFTERS' GUILD

The Crafters' Guild will meet on Wednesday, August 26 at 12 noon in Reidler Hall to plan projects for the Annual Bazaar and the Holly Trail event at the Orwigsburg public library. If you'd like to be part of our group, please contact the church office at 570-366-2316.

SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

The "Blessing of the Backpacks" will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Teachers, students, and school staff are welcome! Please bring bookbags, devices, etc. to be blessed in hope of a wonderful 2023-24 academic year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 13 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service! Please mark your calendars! Sarah Eger, 570-394-3522 (cell), swoodring86@hotmail.com

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATION!

TODAY we celebrate the 45th anniversary of ordination and faithful ministry of the Reverend Robert C. Reier. Please congratulate him and stay for the food and fellowship hosted by Women of the ELCA following our service.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."

Next Sunday, August 16, we will observe "GWOH Sunday" as we dedicate our gifts and send them to those in need in our area through "Servants to All – My Father's House" of Pottsville, PA. Please come for this special event!

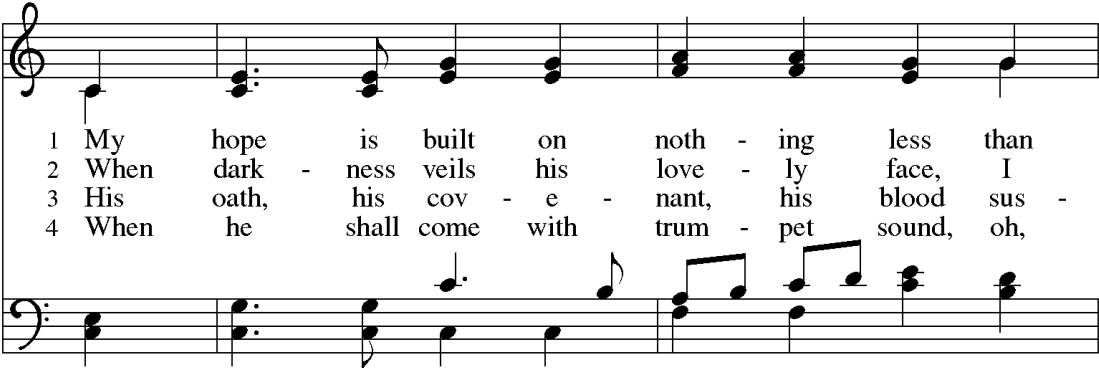
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HERITAGE DAY

Volunteers are needed for Orwigsburg's Heritage Day on Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you're able to help with any portion of the day, please add your name to our sign-up sheet located in the gathering room.

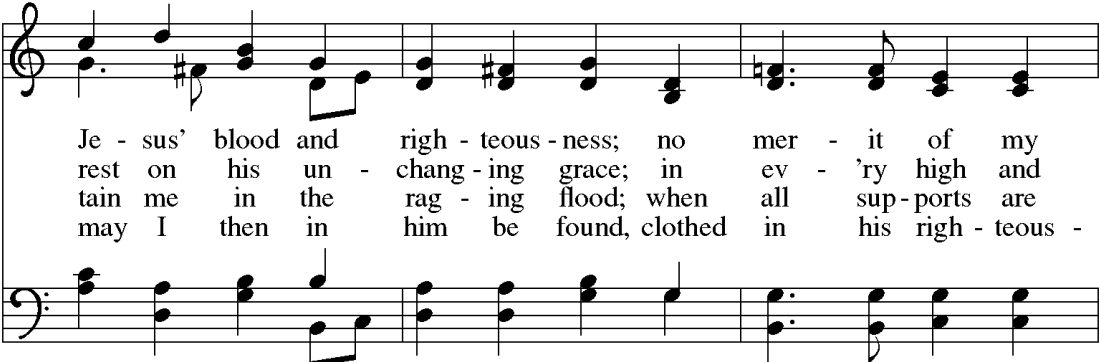
FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SUMMER PICNIC

Everyone is invited for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship gather on Wednesday, August 19 at 6 p.m. in Reidler Hall. Hot dogs, buns and toppings will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room, if you want to come and bring something to share. Consider bringing a friend or neighbor. Games will be on hand if you'd like to hang around afterward.

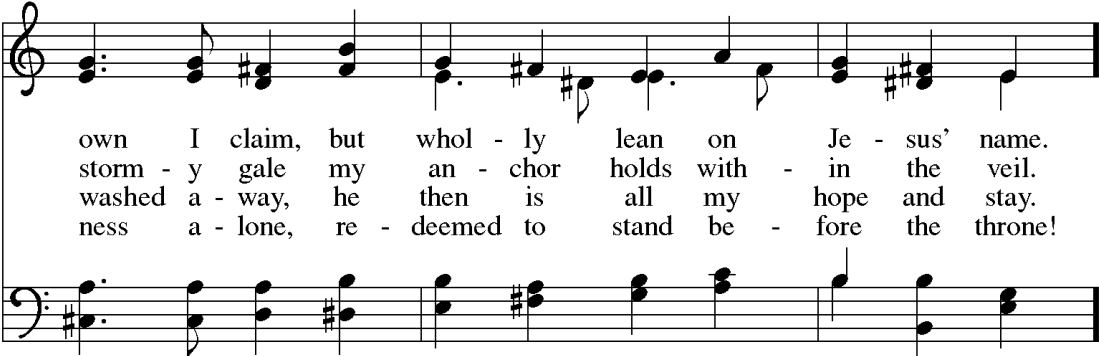
GATHERING HYMN: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

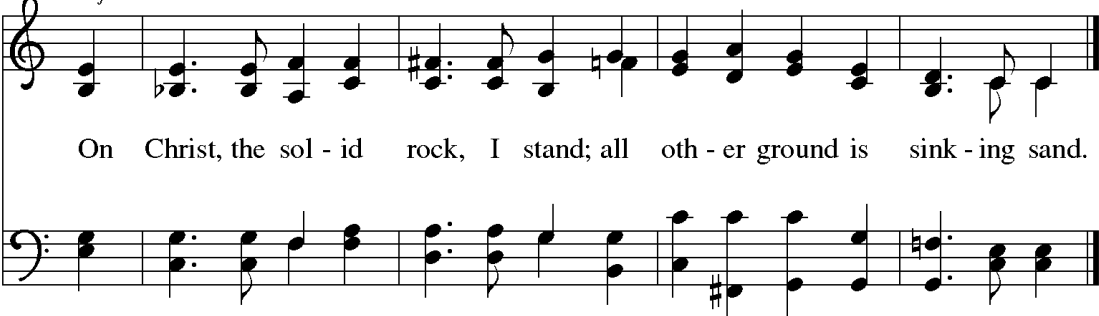


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

We will not "pass the plate" during today's worship service. Our offering plate is 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 continued generosity and kindness.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
3 When at last I near the shore, and the

life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful

roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I

com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

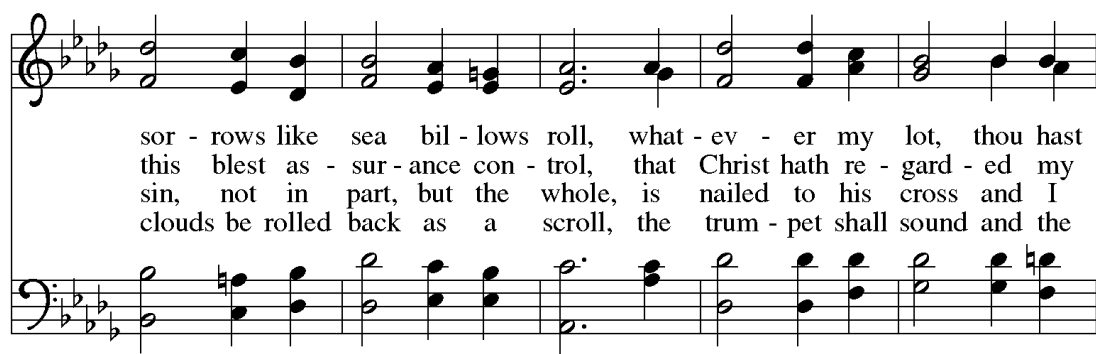
OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Following our 10:30 a.m. service at the church on Sunday, September 20, we will hold our annual Church Picnic in Reidler Hall. Please mark your calendars!

COMMUNION HYMN “It Is Well with My Soul”



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



Refrain
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

“REGULAR” WORSHIP TIMES RETURN

Please note that beginning on Sunday, September 13, (the Sunday AFTER Labor Day), we will return to our “regular” worship schedule.

SENDING HYMN

“My Life Flows On In Endless Song”

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 7/8. The melody is in the treble staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The score includes a refrain section and a final line of the hymn.

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

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