Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 2026

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

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GATHERING

PRELUDE "Morning Has Broken" L. Smith

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

If we say we have no sins, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us - from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

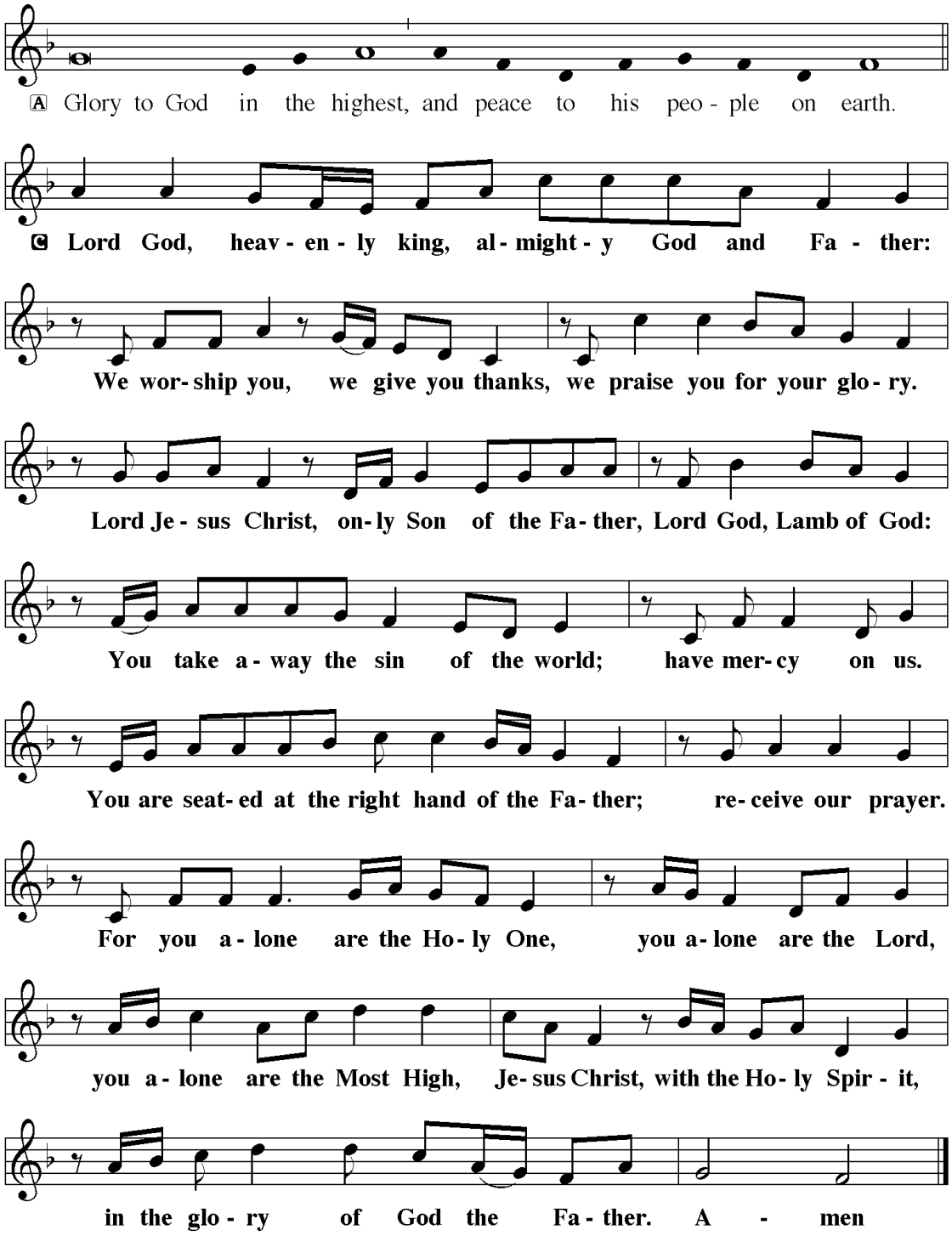
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "O Master, Let Me Walk with You" (#818)
[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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of steadfast love, you know our weakness and our wandering. Turn our hearts toward what is good, keep us from all that harms us, and lead us in the way of repentance and new life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM EZEKIEL

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb
concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the
children's teeth are set on edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall
no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the
parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who
shall die.

25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is
my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away
from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity
that they have committed, they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from
the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall
save their life. 28 Because they considered and turned away from all the
transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.
29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel,
are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your
ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise
iniquity will be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have
committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will
you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the
Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. (Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9 (Read responsively)

1To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
2Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
3Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

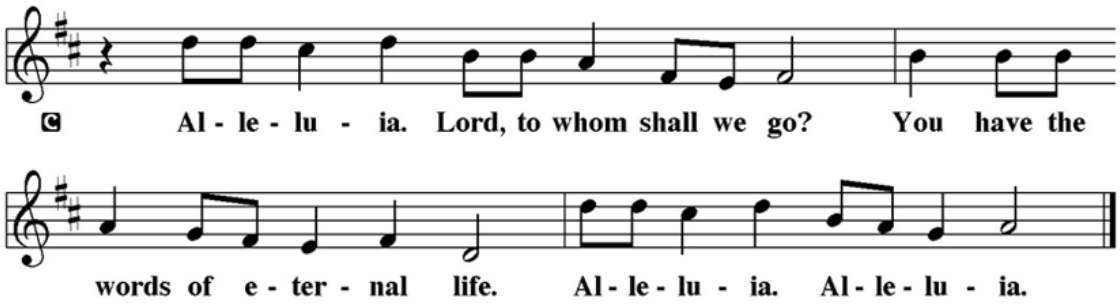
[4]Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
[5]Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
[6]Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.
[7]Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
[8]He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.
[9]All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

[1] If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, [2] make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

[5] Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6] who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human, [8] he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
[9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name
that is above every other name, [10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
[12] Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:1-13)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**.

23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these
things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you
one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I
do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human
origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say
to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we
are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus,
"We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I
am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son,
go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he
changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same, and
he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his
father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax
collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For
John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the
tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not
change your minds and believe him." (Matthew 21:23-32)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

A**NNOUNCEMENTS**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" (#772)
[See back of bulletin]

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.

Keep your church rooted in humility. Help us listen with compassion to those who have been wounded by the church and give us courage to speak truth in love. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Call us to care for your creation. Guide us toward practices that honor all that you have made good and renew what has been damaged or abused. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Grant wisdom and integrity to all who hold authority. Turn their hearts toward the common good and give them the gift of humility in their service. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Draw near to all who come before you in fear or distress. Calm troubled hearts and strengthen all who are in need. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Be with us even when we struggle to resist your call. Open us to new learnings and faithful service, especially in a world which is constantly changing. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Your steadfast love gently holds all the saints who have completed their work and now rest in you. Comfort us in our grief and keep us thankful for their faithful witness. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

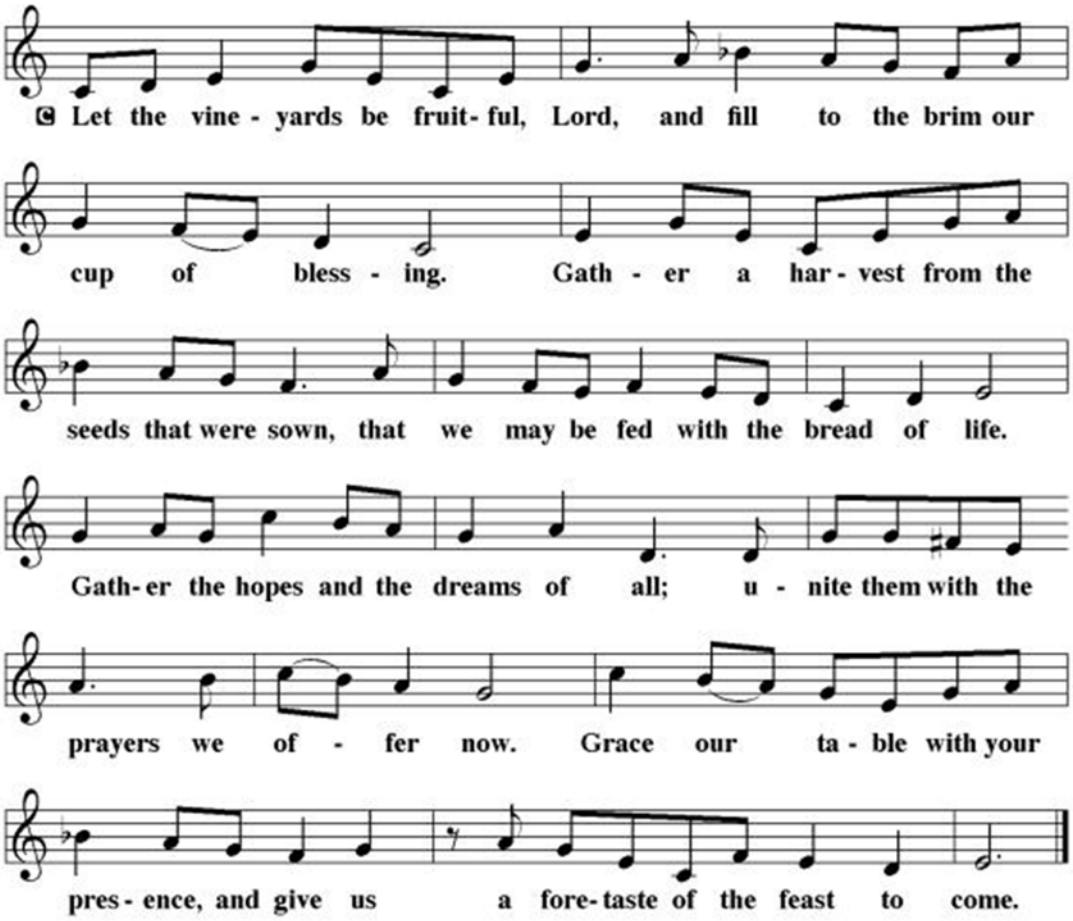
(The Pastor concludes): Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" D. Anderson

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Jesus, Name Above All Names" J. Wilson

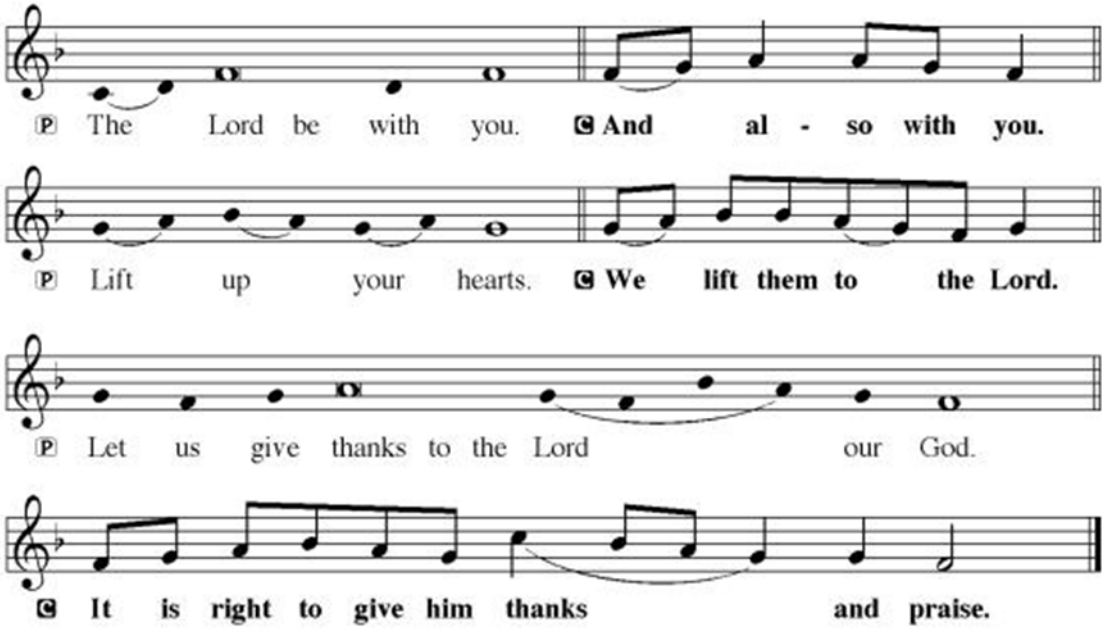
OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

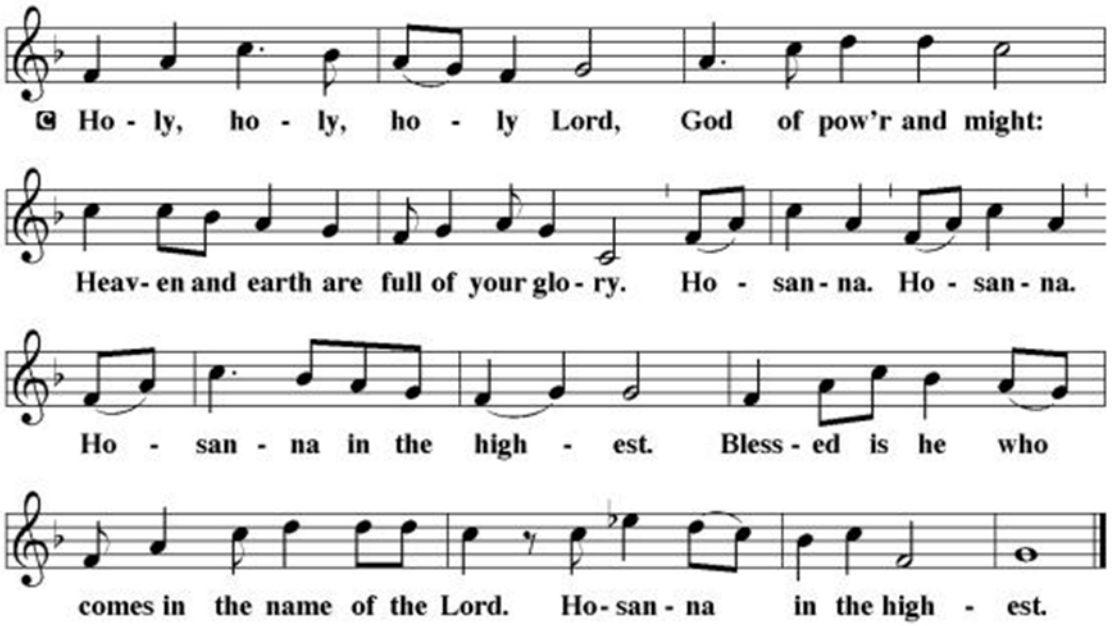
MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

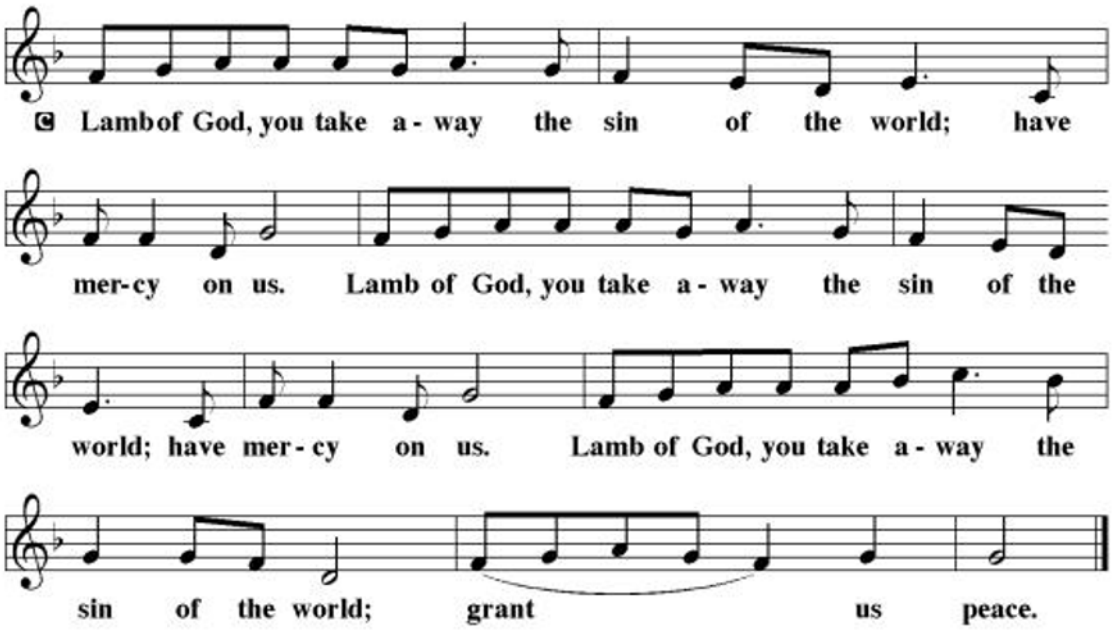
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require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



COMMUNION HYMN "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (#620)
[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 God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

SENDING

BLESSING
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "On Our Way Rejoicing" (#537)
[See back of bulletin]

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

POSTLUDE "Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above" R. J. Powell

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Today's Scriptures call us to repentance, humility, and trust in God's mercy. Ezekiel proclaims God's invitation to turn and live. Jesus' parable of the two sons reminds us that faith is shown not only in words, but in lives turned toward the Father's will. Paul points us to Christ's humility, which shapes our life together in love. By grace through faith, and nourished at the Lord's table, we are sent to serve a world in need.

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Altar flowers are presented in memory of my grandparents, William and Lottie Lengel, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

Bulletins are presented in memory of my brothers, G. Roger Lengel and Jack Lengel, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

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SERVING THIS SUNDAY (9/27/26)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Wendy Schuld
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cindy Ritschel
ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Sue Schenck
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/4/26)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Deb O'Connor
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Deb Bolinsky
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

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HALLOWEEN CANDY IS NEEDED!

Our Evangelism Committee is collecting "fun size" (or larger) individually wrapped candy to hand out at the church during Trick-or-Treat Night in Orwigsburg on Saturday, October 31. A donation box will be available in the narthex. Please bring your candy to the church by Sunday, October 4.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 27		"Harvest Home" Offering Begins
	8 & 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
Wednesday, September 30	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, October 1	6:30 PM	Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, October 3	9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Annual Bazaar in Reidler Hall
	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, October 4	8 & 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	2:00 PM	"Blessing of the Animals" at Albright's Woods

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SERVICE MINISTRY BAZAAR

Our Service Ministry will host its Annual Bazaar Saturday, October 3, 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 pies for purchase. It's also a great chance to catch up with your friends and neighbors.

Sign-up sheets to volunteer or provide needed items are in the gathering room. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help those who are in need in our area. Please join us for this special community event!

HARVEST HOME

Harvest Home is a special outreach to help the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the families they serve. Please bring your non-perishable food to the church beginning this Sunday, September 27. A box in our narthex has been provided for your donations. Harvest Home will be held on the weekend of October 10 & 11.

Let us share our blessings with those in need!

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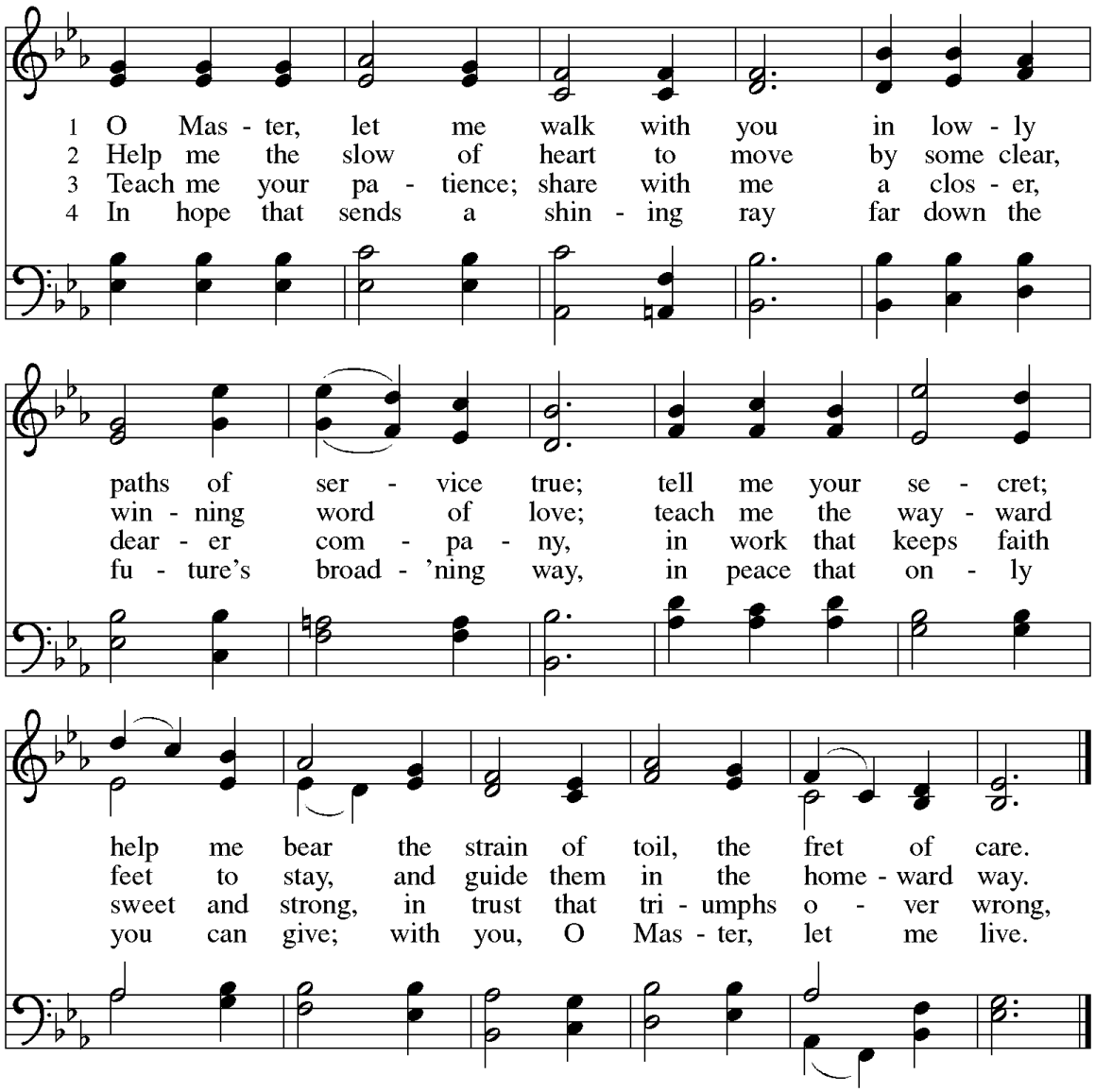
PARKING LOT UPDATE

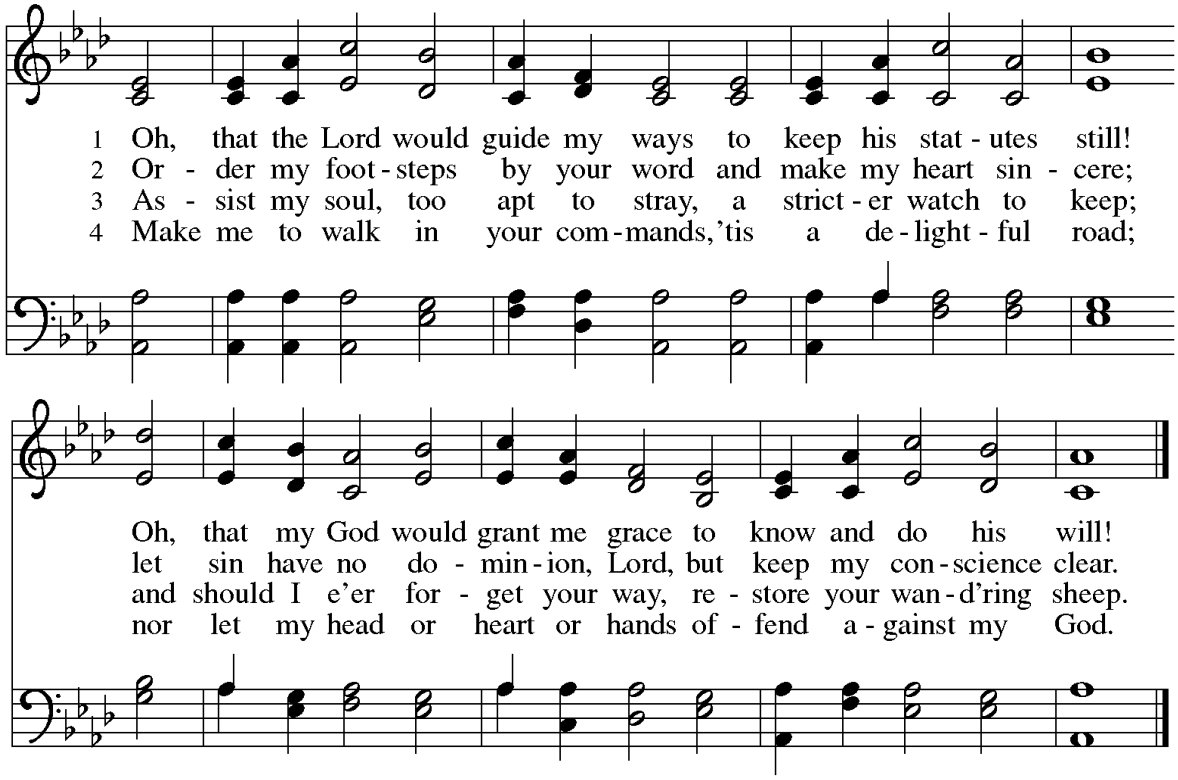
Our upper parking lot is under construction. Please keep this in mind when you come to worship, attend meetings, or otherwise stop at our church building.

GATHERING HYMN "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

Our annual "Blessing of the Animals" will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, at the Albright's Woods Pavilion. Bring your leashed or safely housed pet(s) for a blessing and more! In case of inclement weather, please call the church office or check our Facebook page for an update.

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

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will be Sunday, October 11. 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.

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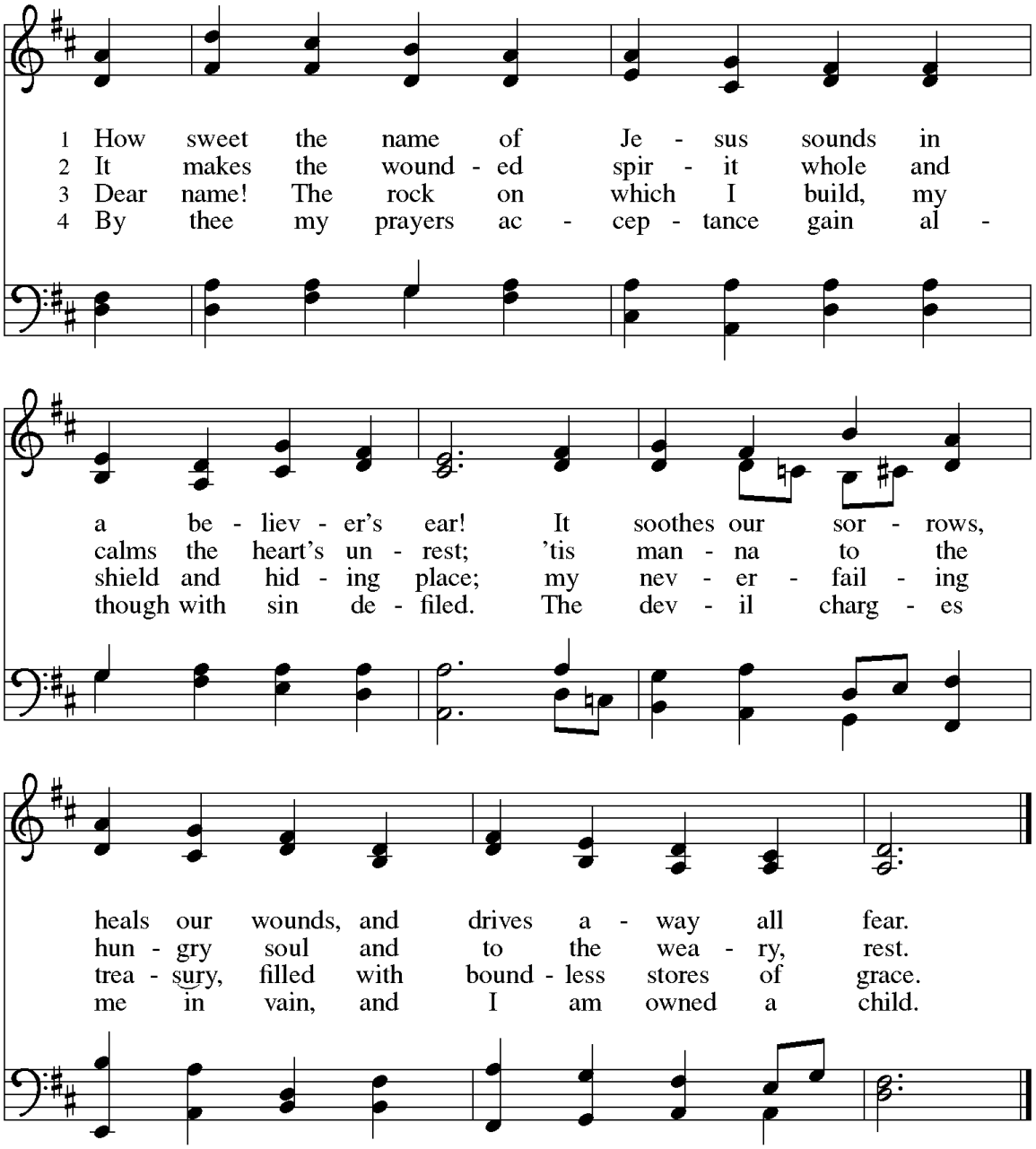
OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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.

COMMUNION HYMN "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

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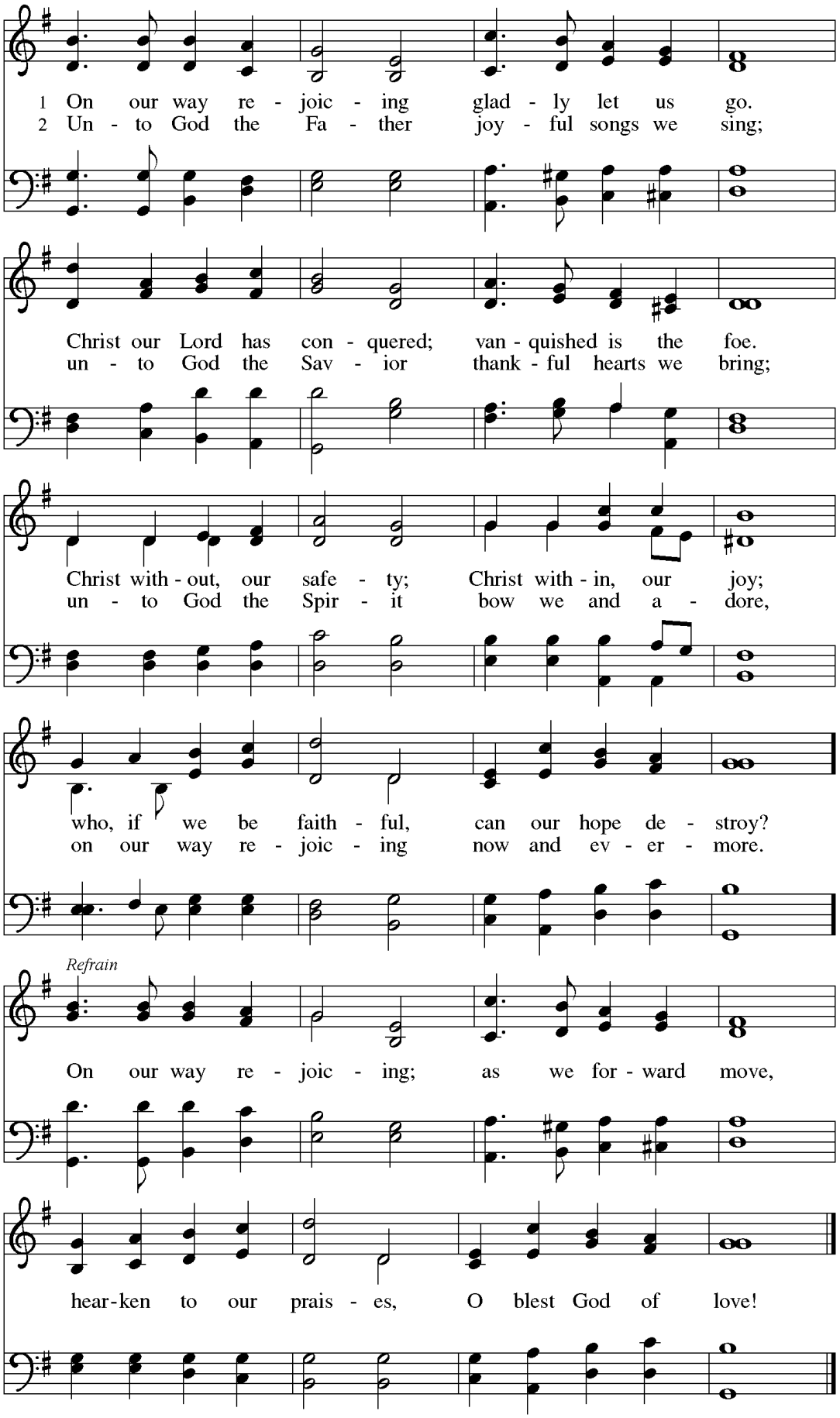
We will not "pass the plate" during today's worship service. Our offering plate is in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your continued generosity and kindness.

SENDING HYMN "On Our Way Rejoicing"