Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 4, 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 "Blessed Assurance" J. N. Beck

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.

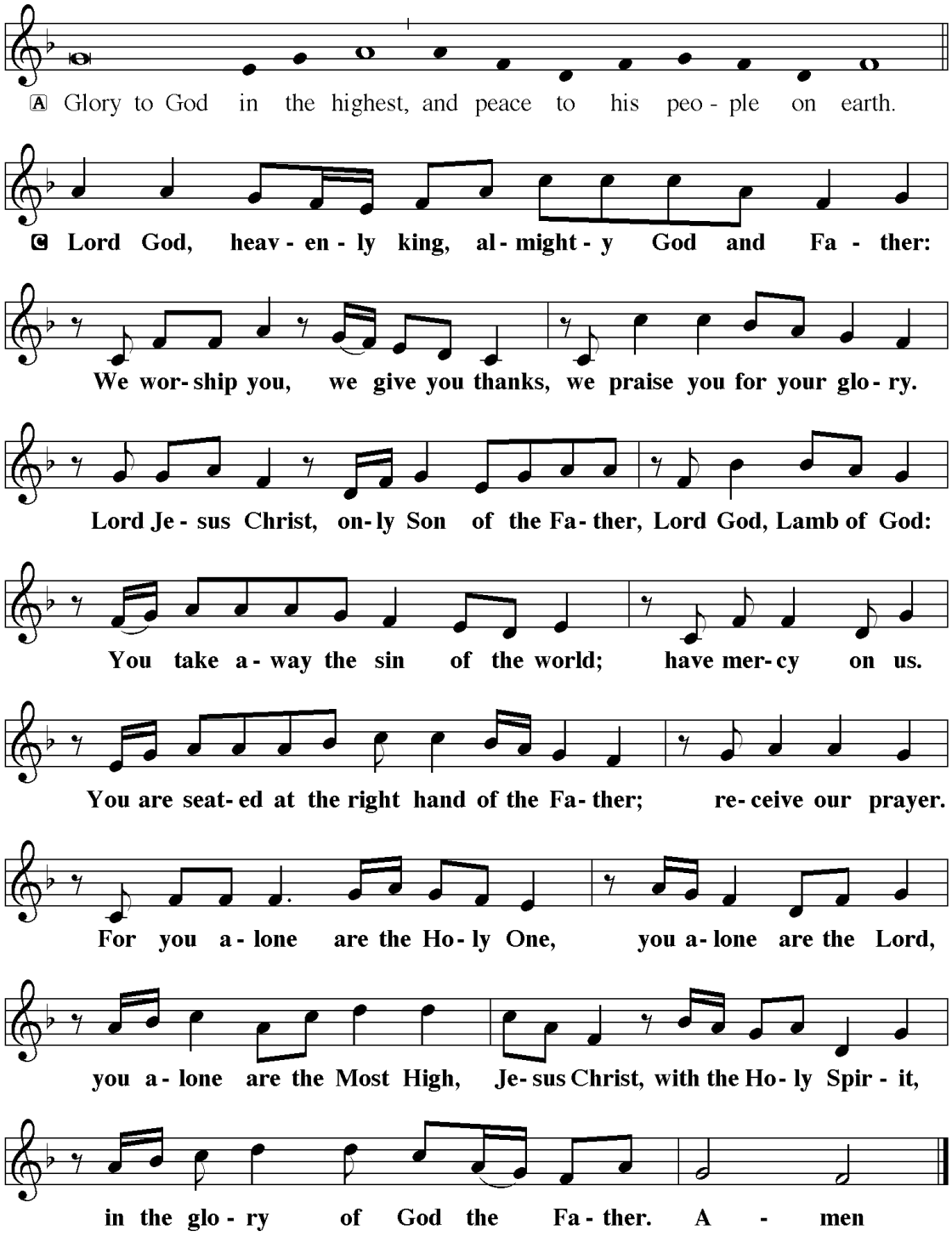
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of 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 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (#807)
[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

Loving God, all things that are good come from you. By your Spirit give us wisdom to know what is your will and guide to do what is right, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

[1]Let me sing for my beloved, my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
[2]He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
[3]And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
[4]What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?
[5]And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
[6]I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
[7]For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry! (Isaiah 5:1-7)

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

PSALM 80:7-15 (Read responsively)

[7]Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[8]**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and planted it.
[9]You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
[10]**The mountains were covered by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
[11]You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

12 **Why have you broken down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O God of hosts,**
look down from heaven;
15 behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

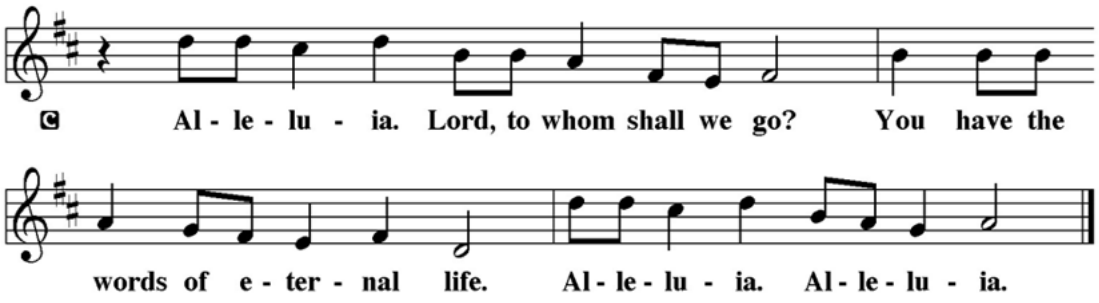
A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:4b-14)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

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

[Jesus said to the people:] 33"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 34When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?

43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

45When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. (Matthew 21:33-46)

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

A**NNOUNCEMENTS**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (#742)
[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.

Merciful God, strengthen your church throughout the world. Keep us faithful in confessing Christ, humble in our service, and eager to do your will. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Creator, we give thanks for your servant Francis of Assisi. Bless your good and bountiful creation, and make us faithful stewards of all that you entrust to us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Wise and gracious God, guide leaders of nations, states, and communities. Give them integrity, compassion, and a desire for justice, that all may be safe and live in peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, draw near to all who mourn, all who cry out for justice, and all who suffer in body or spirit. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful Lord, shape our life together with the mind of Christ. Make us eager to encourage one another, joyful in serving our neighbors, and open-hearted toward all who come among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Keep us steadfast in faith until that day when you restore your eternal vineyard and gather all your children as one. 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

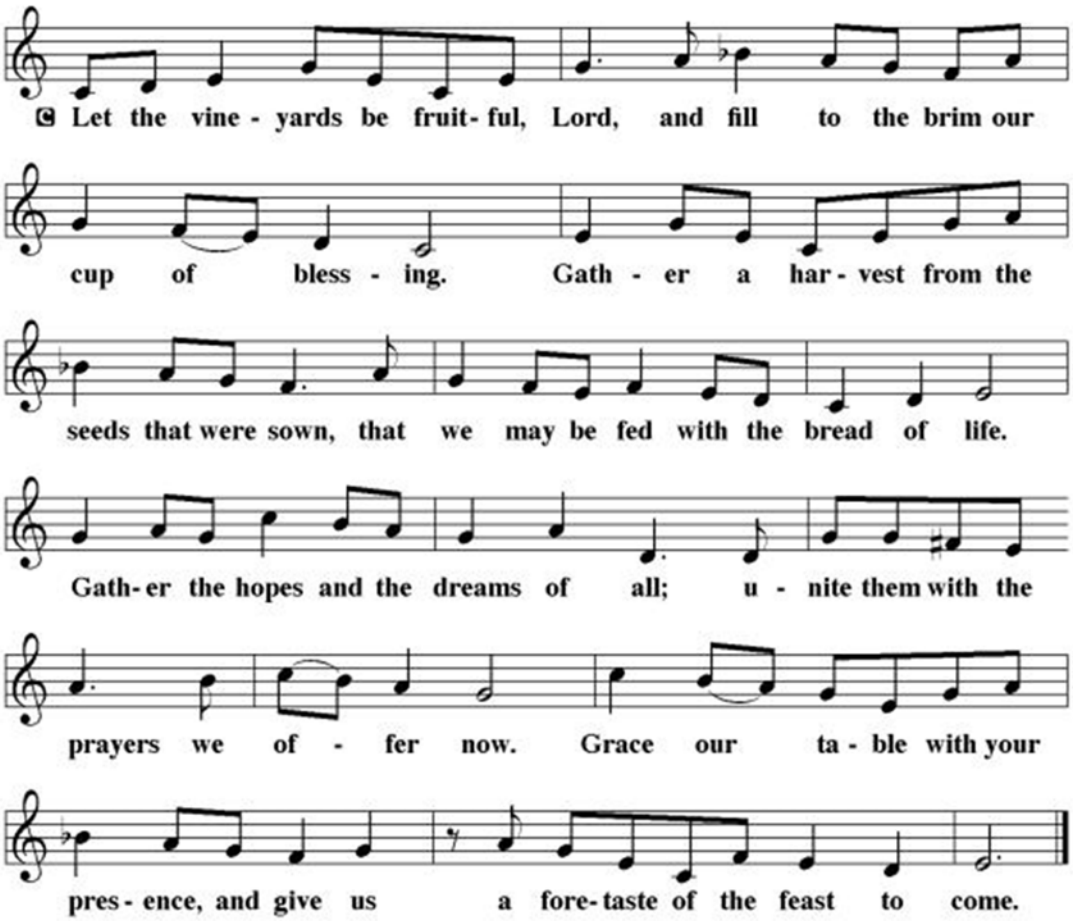
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "Interlude" T. Thorley

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Take My Voice and Let Me Sing" S. Kupferschmid

["Take My Voice and Let Me Sing" was presented in memory of my husband, Gary, and my brother, Lynn Sabold, by Gloria Dierwechter (2018).]

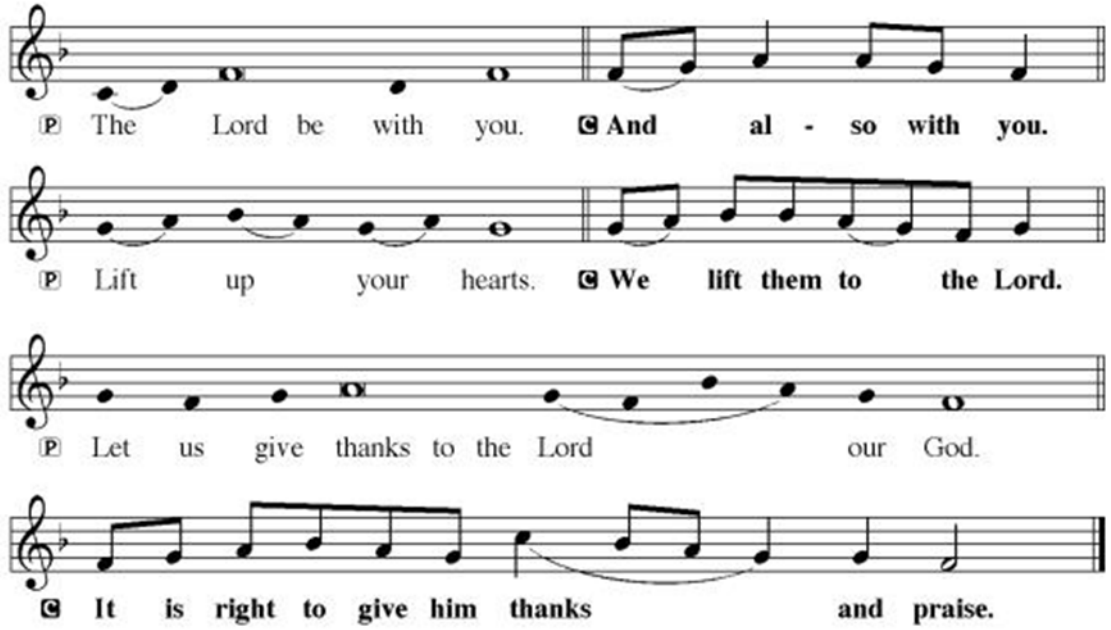
OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

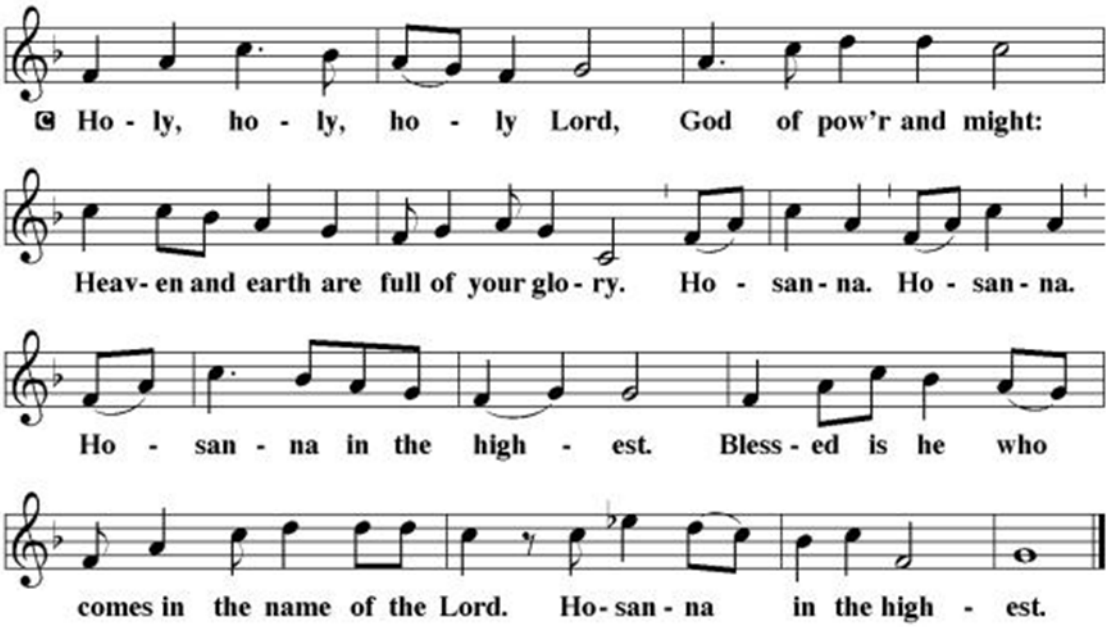
MEAL

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

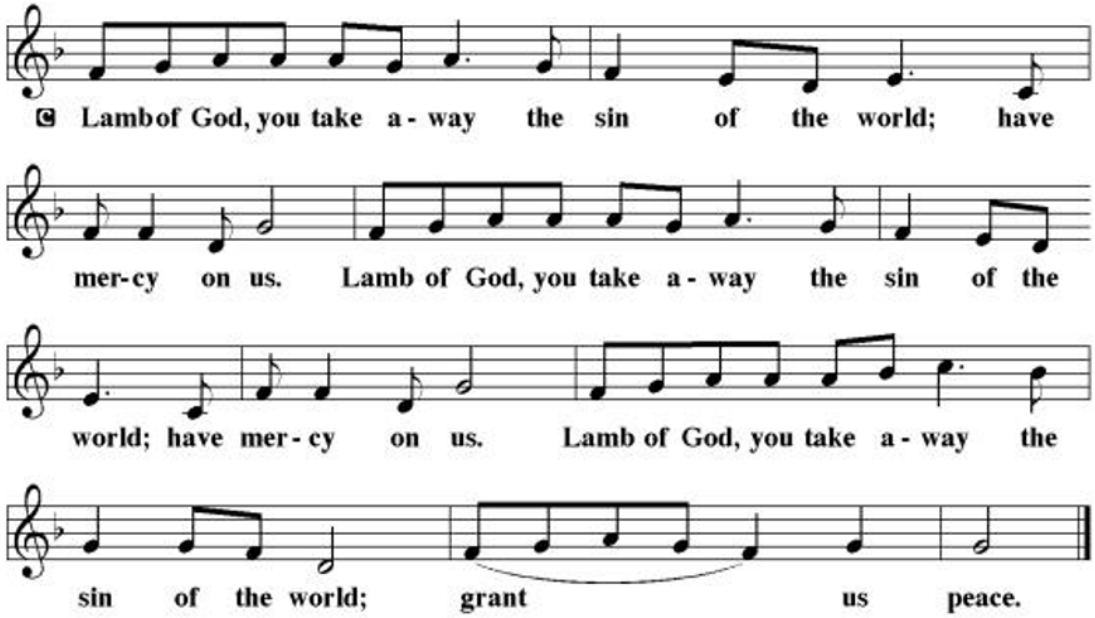
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require 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 "Day By Day" (#790)

[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 "The Church's One Foundation" (#654)
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE "Psalm XIX" B. Marcello

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Jesus tells a vineyard parable. It serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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Altar flowers are presented in honor of our 51st anniversary by Cindy and Jeff Ritschel.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of my mother, Margaret Piacine by her daughter, Danielle Richards.

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of Jim Frantz by Kathie Frantz.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Wrone and Rose Peifley by granddaughter, Tina Butler

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"BRING YOUR BIBLE" SUNDAY

Please bring your family Bible, your personal Bible, or any Bible you wish to share to church with you on Sunday, October 18 or drop it off at church by Thursday, October 22. We will display our congregation's Bibles in our Gathering Room on Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25, as we celebrate God's continuing work in the world on Reformation Sunday.

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SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/11/26)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Joanne Emerich; LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Bill Smoot
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

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COME TO OUR GARDEN PARTY

Join us at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 16 as we prepare our church gardens for new life in the spring. Volunteers are needed to help pull some weeds, cut back some bushes, flowers, and plants, and generally clean up in our church gardens Volunteers are invited to just show up with gloves and any tools that you find helpful. No previous gardening experience is necessary!

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will be NEXT 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

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 Pavilion
Monday, October 5	6:30 PM	Property
Tuesday, October 6	6:30 PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, October 7	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, October 8	6:30 PM	Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, October 10		HARVEST HOME
	9:30 AM	Catechism
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, October 11		HARVEST HOME and SECOND SUNDAY
	8 & 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum & Teen Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Youth Sunday School

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FALL CHILI & SOUP SALE

The "award winning" Men of St. Paul's will host a Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, November 7, beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the square" in Orwigsburg, PA. Come early for the best selection of chilis, tasty soups, and homemade baked goods. Thank you for your support!

WELCA NEWS

We will be collecting donations of dark-colored knitted or crocheted hats and scarves for the Seafarers International House's "Christmas at Sea" starting October 10 and continuing through late November. A donations box will be in the narthex. Thank you!

HARVEST HOME

Harvest Home will be held on the weekend of October 10 & 11. This special outreach helps the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the families they serve. Please bring your non-perishable food to the church. There is a box in our narthex for your donations. Let us share our blessings with those in need!

LET'S HELP OUR FOOD PANTRY

Each year, St. Paul's is invited to take the lead in providing volunteers for one of the Orwigsburg Food Pantry's monthly food distributions. This month, we are called to serve.

Volunteers are needed at St. John's United Church of Christ on Friday, October 16, at 6 p.m. to help pack food boxes, and again on Saturday, October 17, at 8:45 a.m. to assist with the distribution of food boxes. Youth are welcome to help on Friday evening; volunteers on Saturday must be at least 18 years old.

Let us continue to help families who struggle to find food for themselves.

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.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year our Community Thanksgiving service will be held on Tuesday, November 24 at 7 p.m. right here at St. Paul's. Our friends from St. John's United Church of Christ, Salem United Methodist Church and Zion Stone Church will participate in this service. Please mark your calendar!

Let us gather to give thanks to God for all the gifts and blessing given to us, our family, our community, and our nation.

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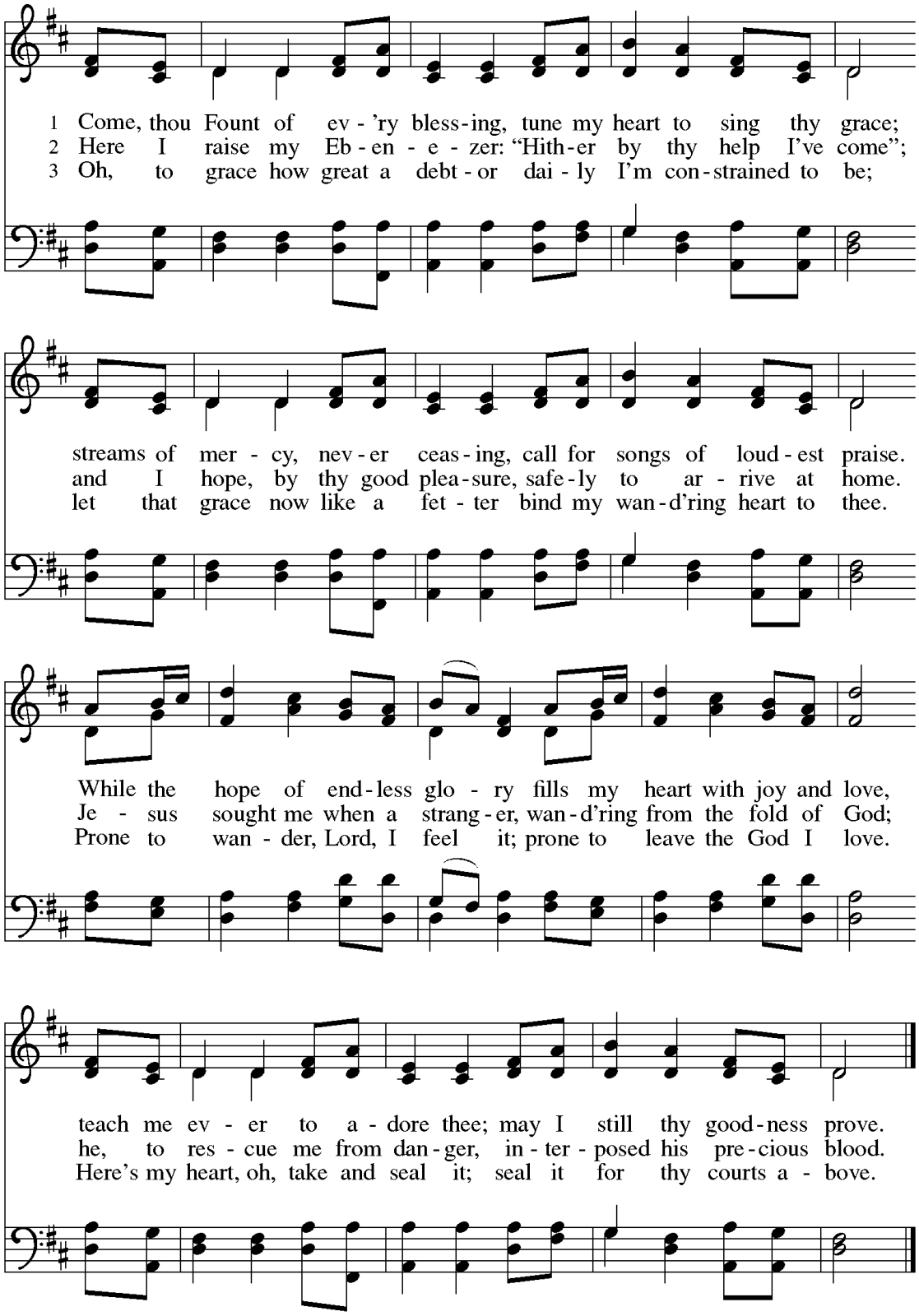
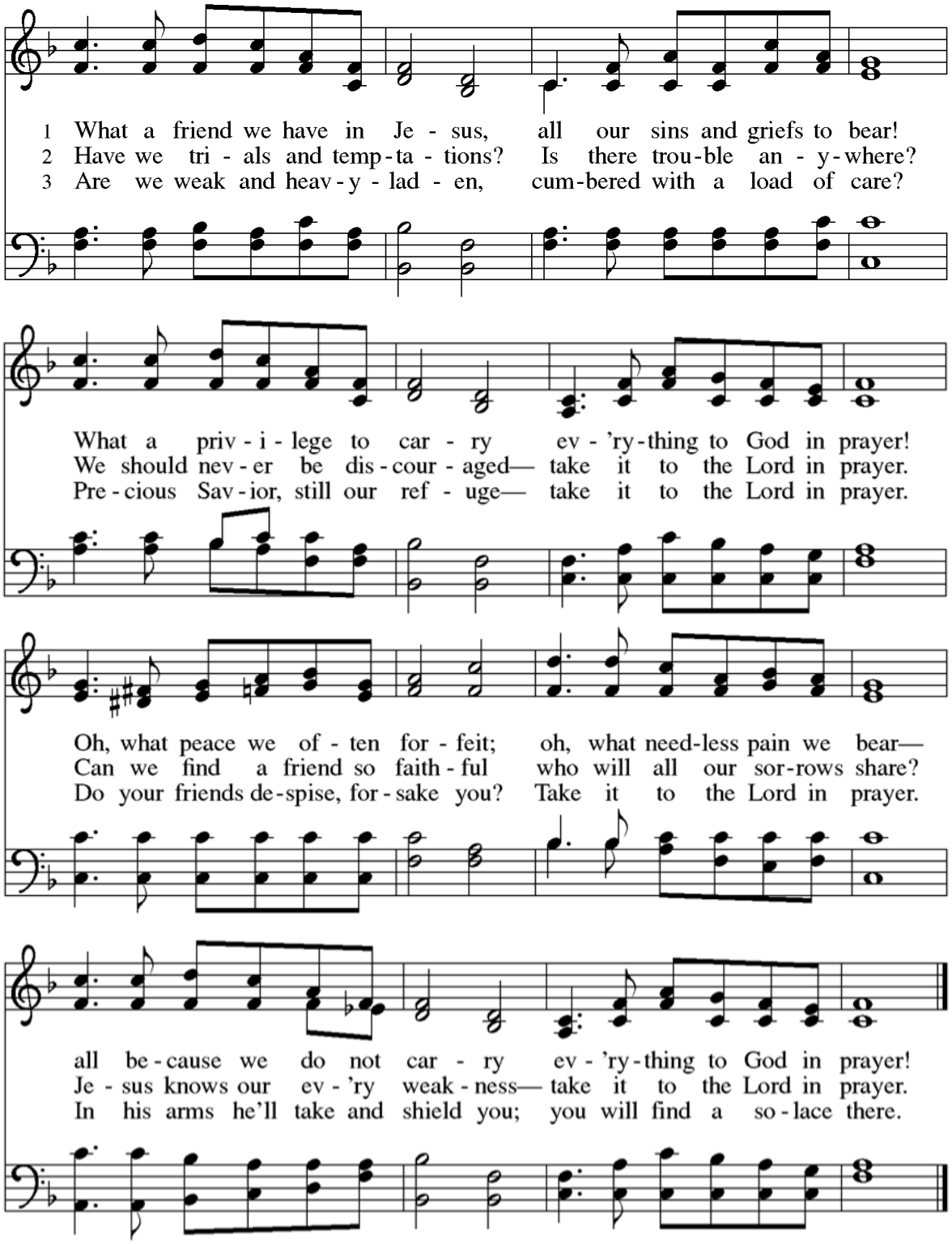
OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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.

GATHERING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT

The Evangelism Committee will give out treats at Orwigsburg's Trick-or-Treat Night on Saturday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. We will meet on Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. to fill treat bags for local children. Please join us!

HYMN OF THE DAY "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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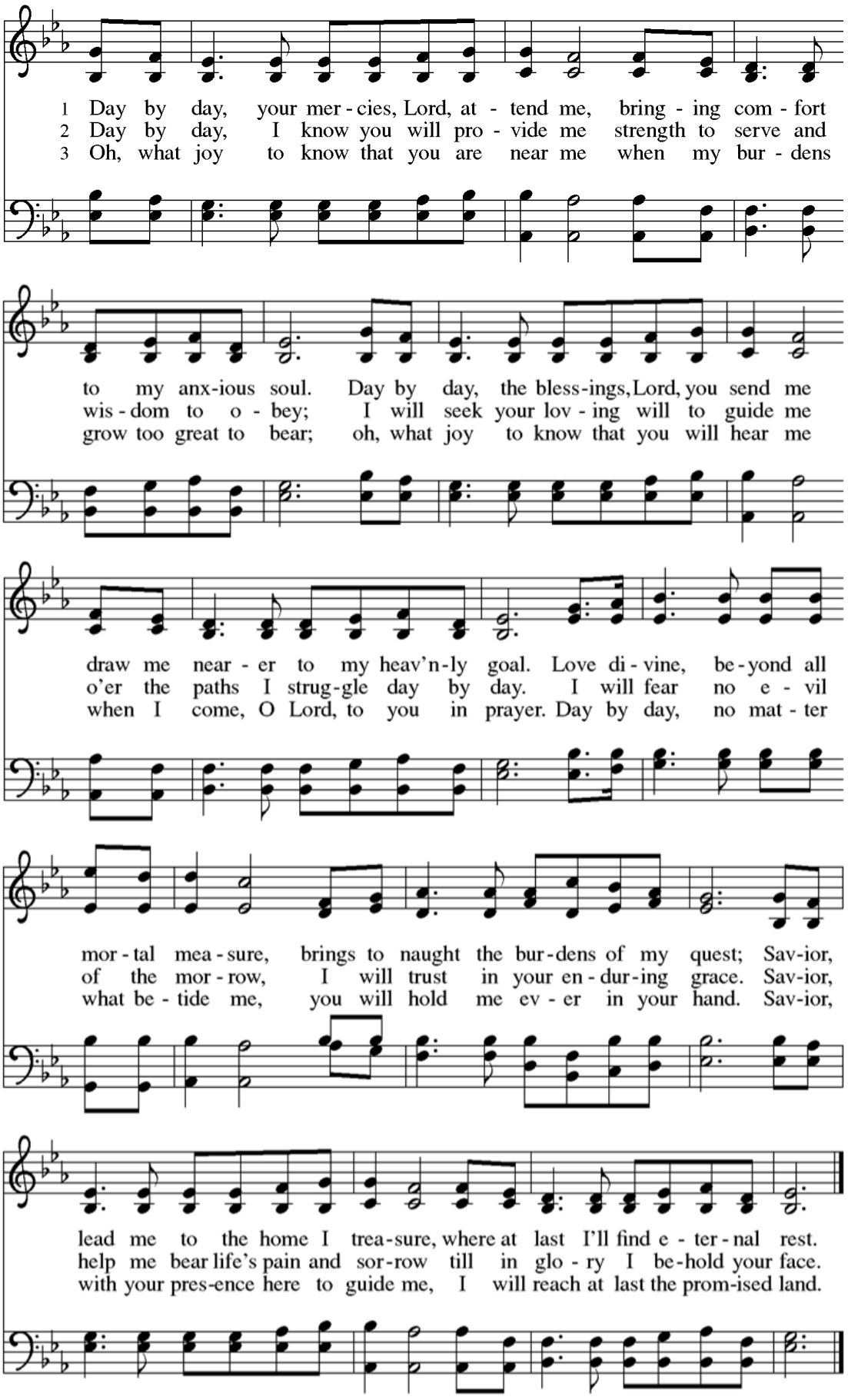
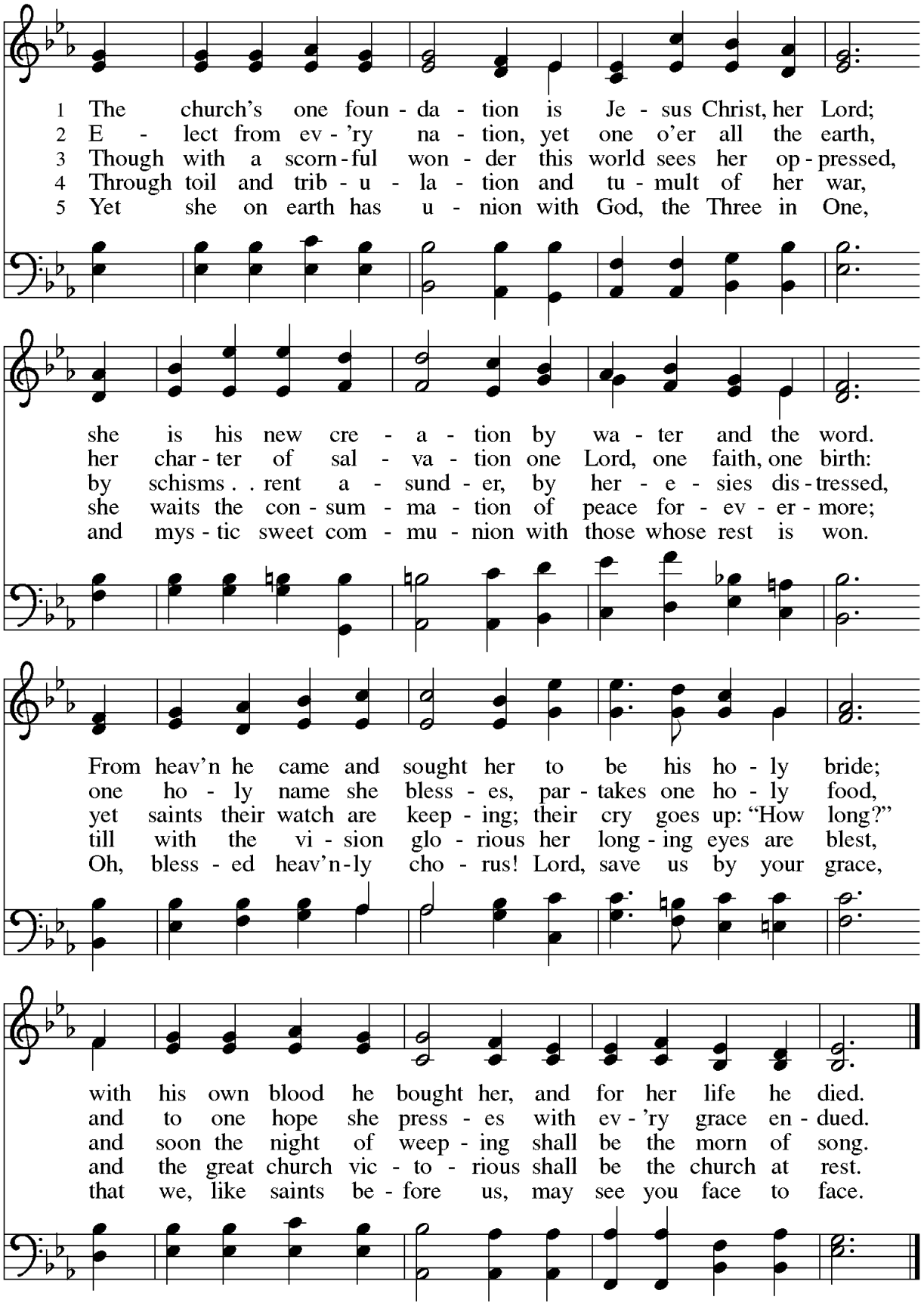
We will not "pass the plate" during today's worship service. Our offering plate is in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your continued generosity and kindness.

COMMUNION HYMN "Day By Day"

SENDING HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"