Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 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 "Now Thank We All Our God" J.S. Bach

BLESSING AND SENDING OF GIFTS (10:30 AM)

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

Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we offer our Harvest Home gifts for our community's Food Pantry. Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks, for you open your hand and satisfy the needs of every living thing. With all creation we lift our voices in praise, giving thanks for the abundance you entrust to us.

Bless those who oversee the work of the Orwigsburg Food Pantry, and all who volunteer their time, strength, and compassion. Strengthen their service and let their work be a sign of your care for our neighbors.

Bless all who contribute to the Food Pantry, and especially those who have offered food and donations for our Harvest Home collection. Renew in us a spirit of generosity and gratitude for all your gifts.

And bless all who depend on the Food Pantry for daily bread. May this offering of non-perishable food bring help, hope, and dignity to our hungry neighbors. Let those who receive these gifts know that they are valued, remembered, and loved.

Almighty God, in your Son Jesus Christ you have revealed a feast of grace for all peoples. You call us to rejoice, to live humbly, and to share generously. Teach us to be faithful stewards of all you provide, so that our good works may reflect your mercy and bring praise to you, our Father in heaven.

This we ask through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

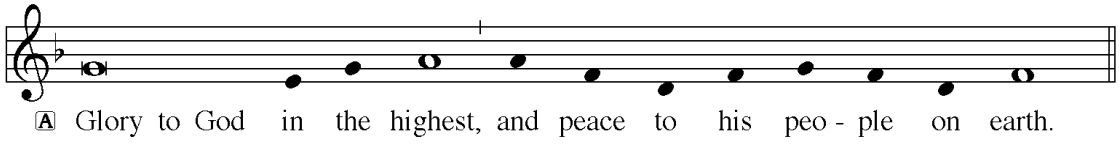
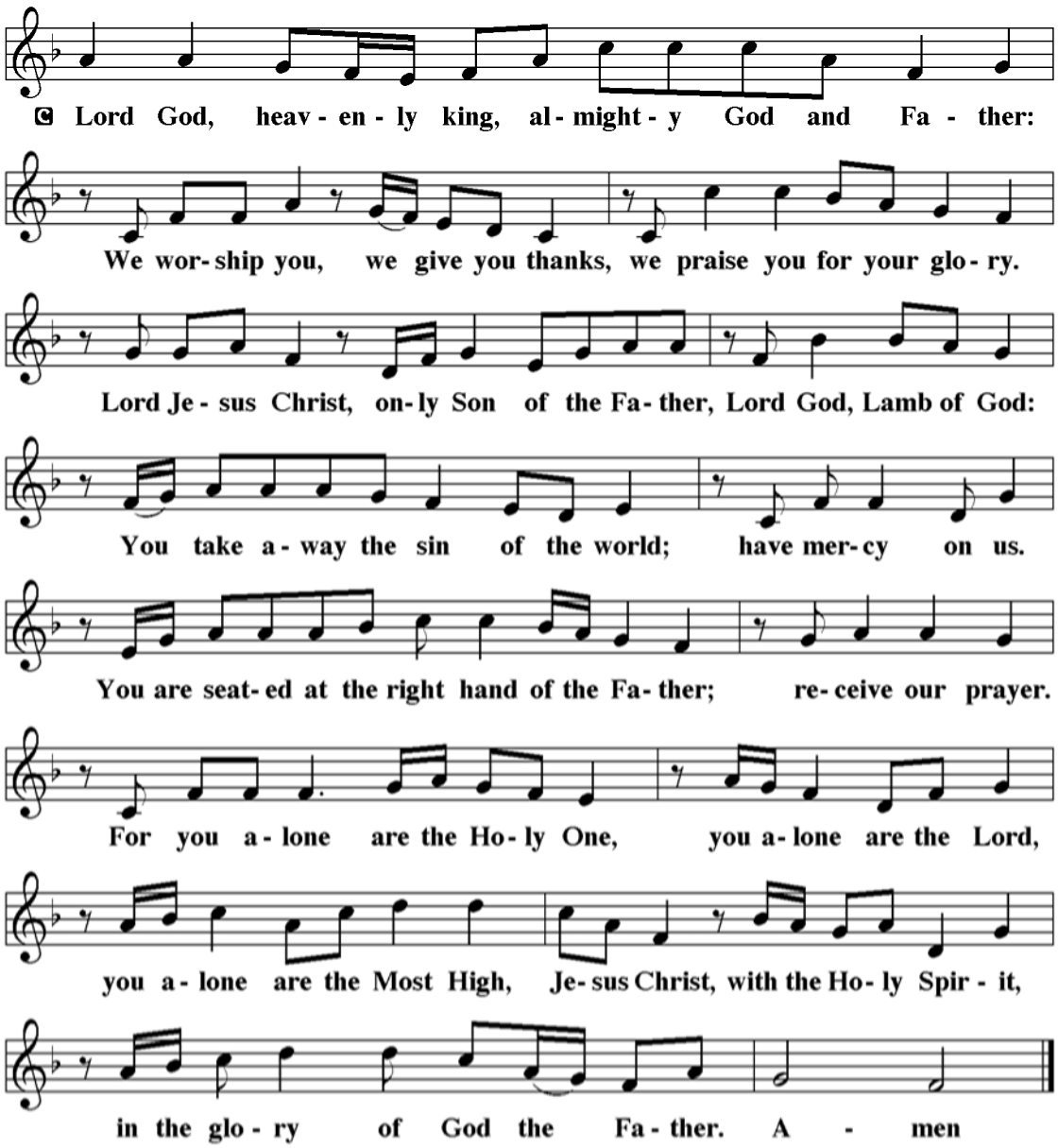
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (#693)
[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

Lord of the feast, you invite all people to the banquet of your grace. Call us again to your table, strengthen us in all that is right and good, and make us a people who live in your peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

[10:30 AM Only – We will gather our children for Sunday school at this time.]

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isaiah 25:1-9)

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

PSALM 23 (Read responsively)
The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

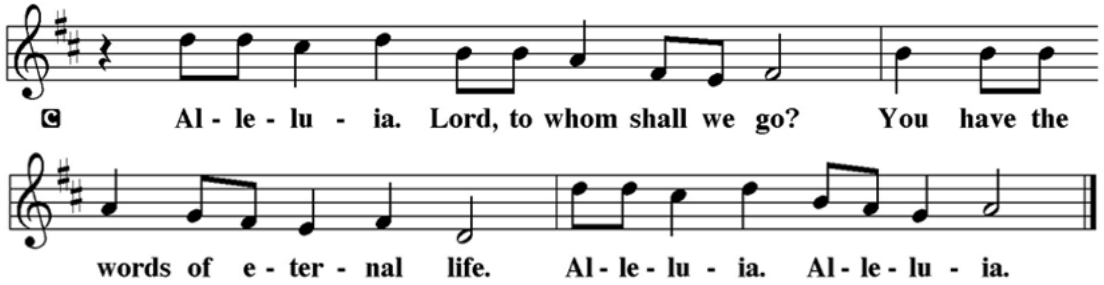
A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS
[Paul writes:] [1]My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

[2]I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. [3]Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

[4]Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5]Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6]Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7]And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8]Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9]Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:1-9)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

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

[1]Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2]"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3]He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4]Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' [5]But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6]while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7]The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8]Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9]Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10]Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

[11]"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, [12]and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13]Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14]For many are called, but few are chosen."
(Matthew 22:1-14)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (#686)
[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.

Holy God, you gather all peoples and make us one in your love. Strengthen all who work for unity across divisions, that your reconciling grace may be known throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you prepare a feast and restore the beauty of your creation. Guard places of natural wonder, renew the land we have harmed, and teach us to be faithful stewards of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, you are our refuge in storm and disaster. Renew communities facing hardship or destruction and strengthen all who lead relief efforts with courage and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Comforting God, you promise to wipe away every tear. Draw near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially everyone on our prayer list. Bring your healing, hope, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Welcoming God, you invite all people to the banquet of your grace. Challenge us to open wide our church doors and reflect the generosity of Christ throughout our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Faithful God, you swallow up death and promise endless life. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Keep us steadfast in faith until we join them at your eternal feast. 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.**

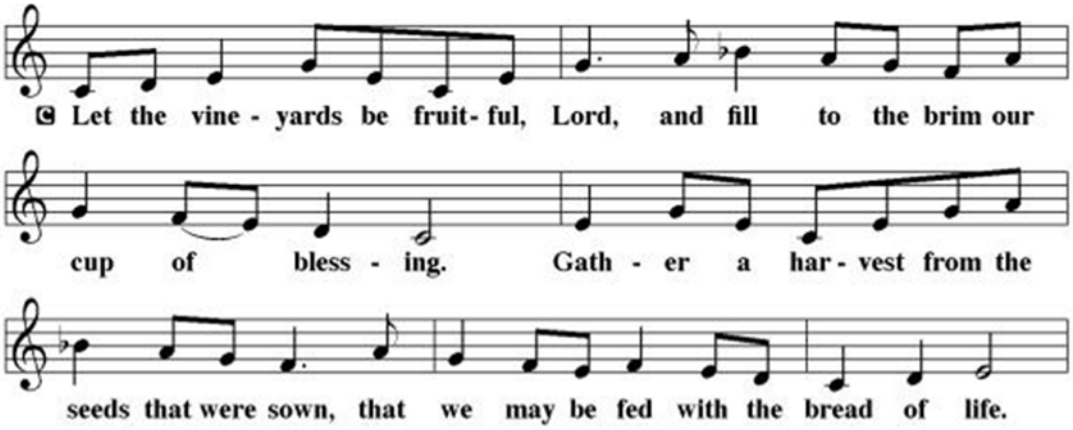
THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "This Is My Father's World" C. Berry

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "All Creatures of Our God and King" S. Strite

["All Creatures of Our God and King" was presented in honor of our alto section and all their dog friends by Tom, Gwen, Biscuit, and Snowball Wehr. (2018)]

OFFERTORY HYMN

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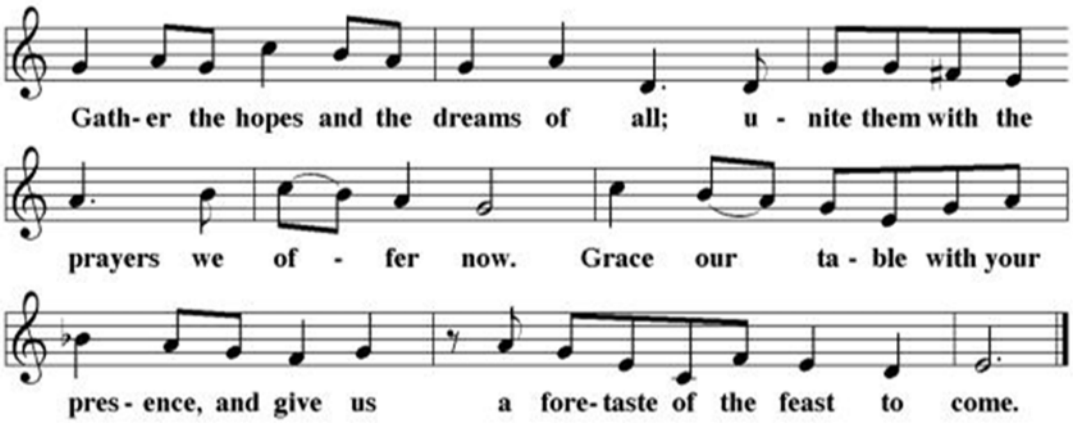
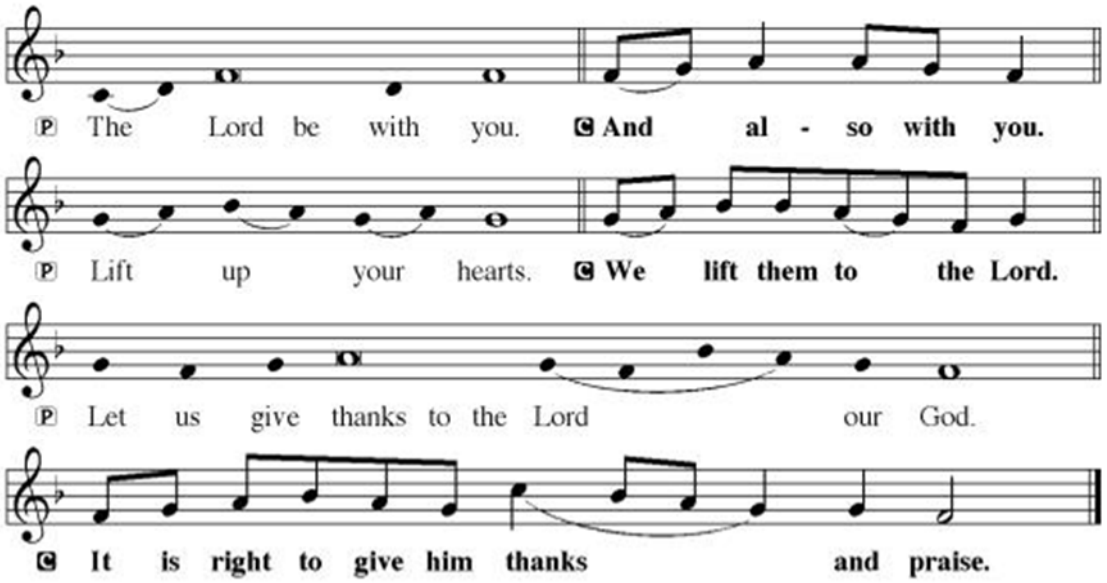

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

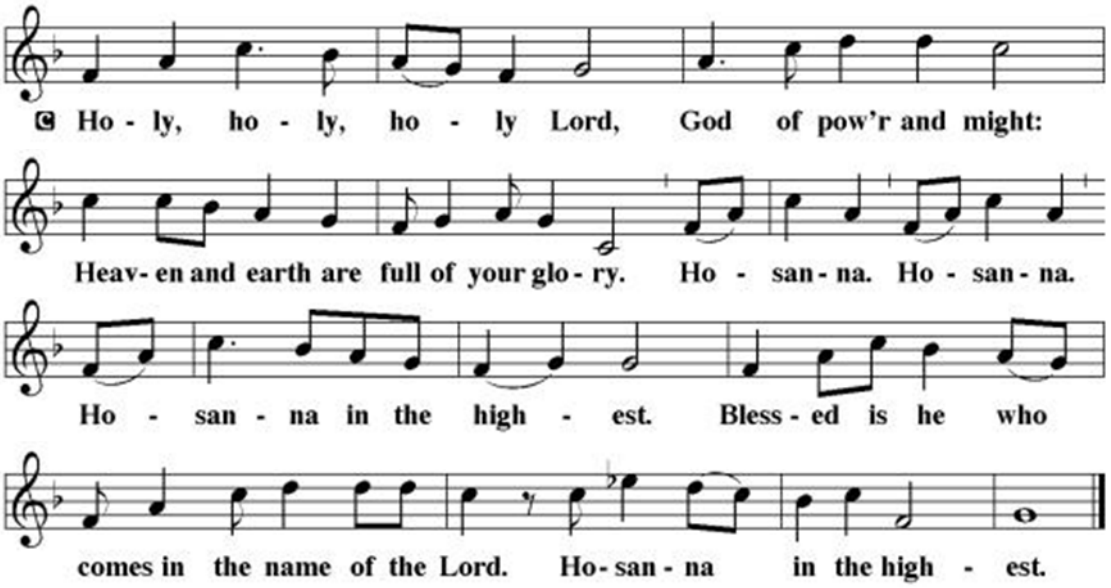
MEAL

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

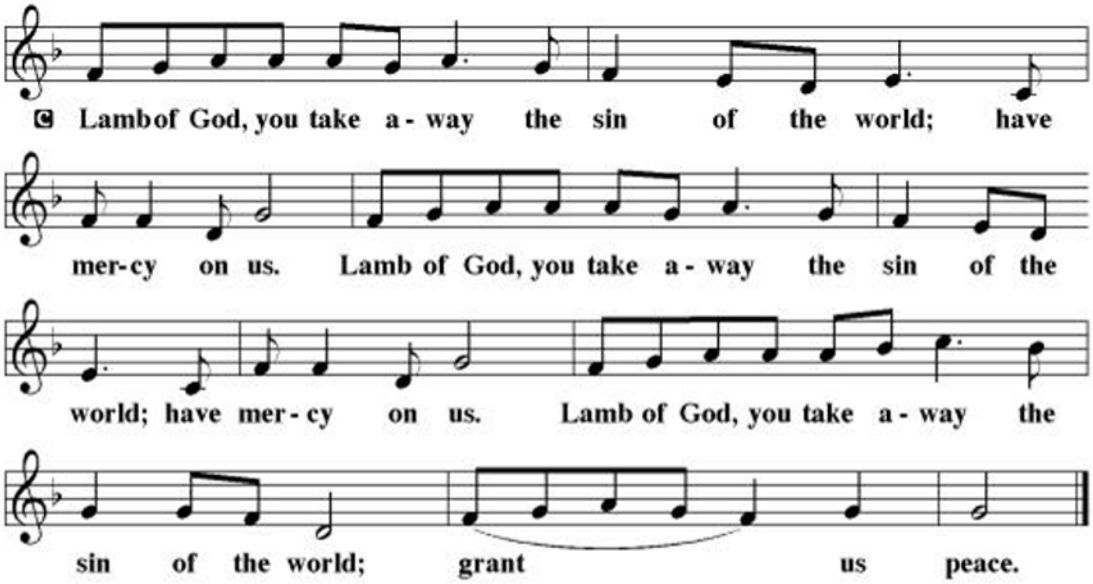
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require 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(10:30 AM) "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" (#694)
[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 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" (#873)
[See back of bulletin]

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

POSTLUDE "Give Thanks Unto God" F. Ritter

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet reminds us that God's invitation is gracious and wide yet calls us into a life shaped by Christ. We gather together as one family in Christ trusting that, by grace alone, God welcomes us and prepares us for the joy of his kingdom.

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Altar flowers are presented in memory of my husband, Dave Sterner by Barbara Sterner.

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SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/18/26)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Sarah Eger
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Robin Zimmerman
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

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HARVEST HOME

Today we celebrate Harvest Home. This special outreach helps the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the families they serve. Thank you to everyone who donated items. Let us share our blessings with those in need!

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. Please join us!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

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
Monday, October 12		COLUMBUS DAY Our church office is closed
	6:30 PM	WEIK Presentation
	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, October 13	1:00 PM	WELCA in Reidler Hall
Wednesday, October 14	12 Noon	Crafters' Guild
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, October 15	6:30 PM	Bible Study Fellowship
Friday, October 16	10:00 AM	Garden Party
	6:00 PM	Volunteers Fill boxes at the Food Pantry
Saturday, October 17	8:45 AM	Volunteers Distribute boxes at the Food Pantry
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, October 18		ST. LUKE, APOSTLE
	8 & 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum

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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!

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.

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!

"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.

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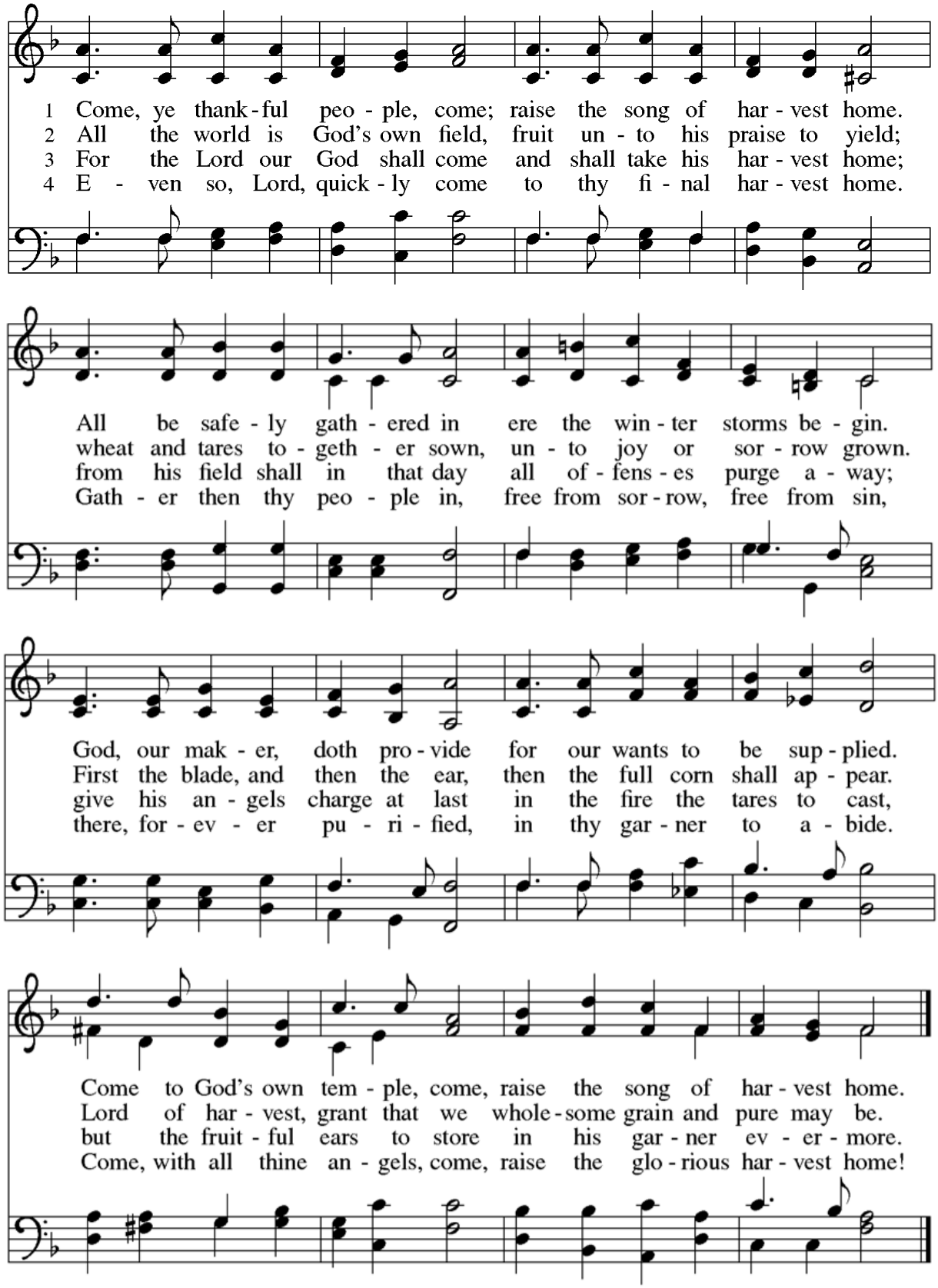
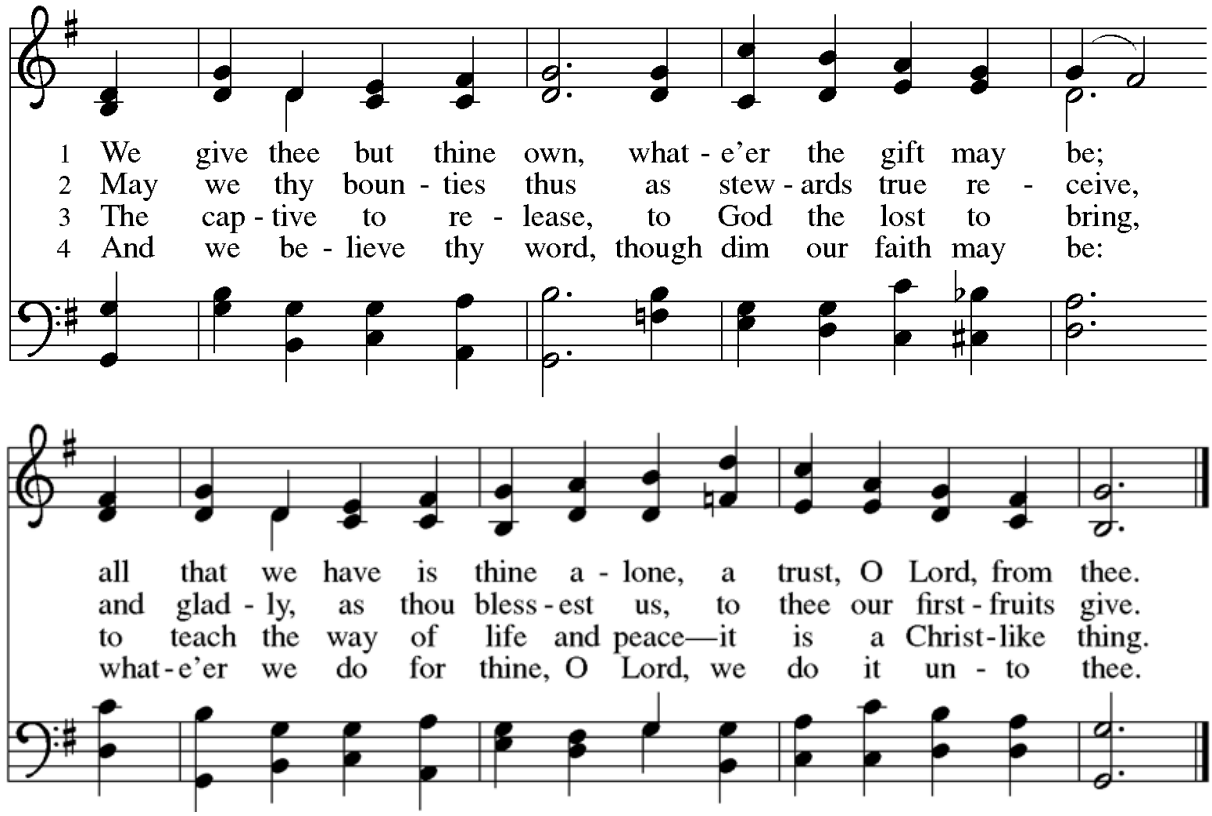
We will not "pass the plate" during today's worship service. Our offering plate is in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your continued generosity and kindness.

GATHERING HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

HYMN OF THE DAY "We Give Thee but Thine Own"



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS!

The feast of All Saints will be observed during our worship on Saturday November 7, and Sunday, November 8, this year. Members of the congregation who have passed away since our last "All-Saints" observance include Kay R. Cole and Ralph E. Martin. If this list is incomplete, please contact our church office.

Framed photographs may be placed on a Remembrance Table and at the base of many of the windows in our nave to remember loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord.

Please bring your photos to the church gathering room by Wednesday, November 4, so that we can be displayed for our All-Saints services.

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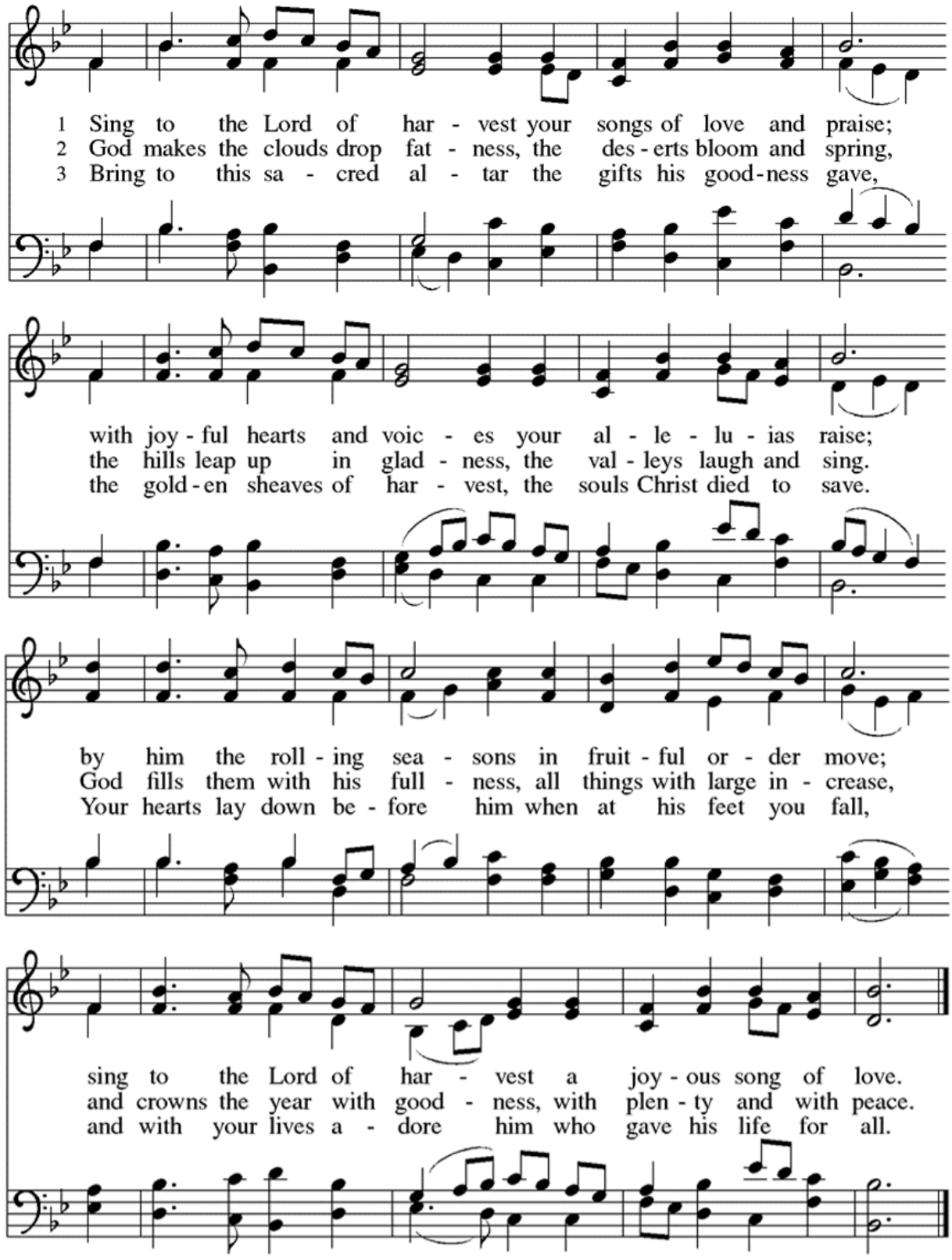
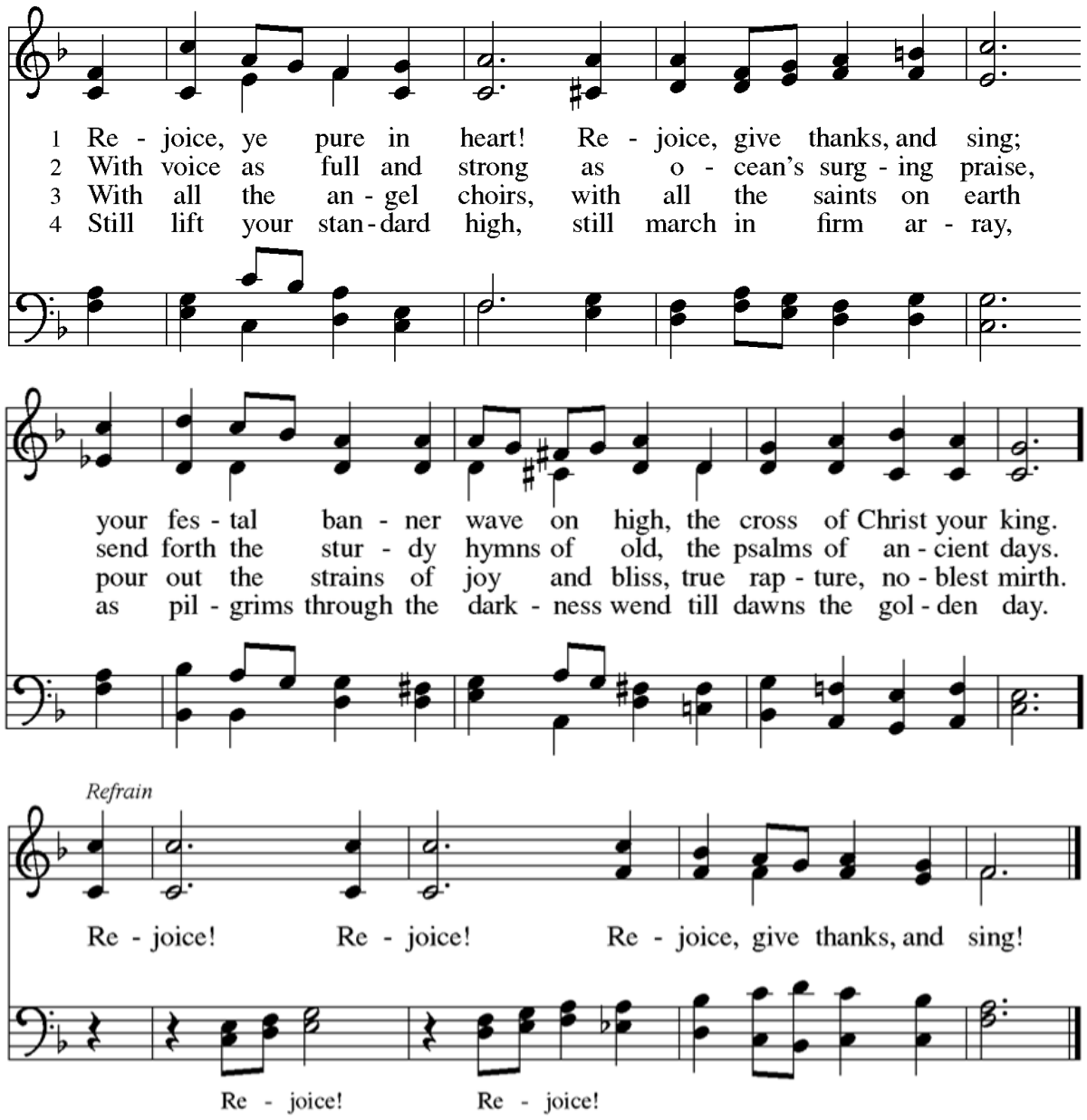
OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

"FALL" BACK ONE HOUR

Daylight Saving Time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, this year. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31.

SENDING HYMN "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

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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.