25th Sunday of Pentecost
November 15, 2026
9 AM



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4686 E. Walnut Street
Westerville, OH 43081
614-882-7601
www.splcwesterville.org

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC **FRIEND OF GOD** by Israel Houghton &
St. Paul Praise Team Michael Gungor

WELCOME

✢ ✢ ✢ GATHERING ✢ ✢ ✢

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

WELCOME SONG EVERY MOVE I MAKE

CHORUS
Ev'ry move I make I make in You, You make me move Jesus.
Ev'ry breath I take I breathe in You.
Ev'ry step I take I take in You, You are my way Jesus.
Ev'ry breath I take I breathe in You. *(Repeat)*

Waves of mercy, waves of grace, Ev'rywhere I look, I see Your face.
Your love has captured me, Oh my God this love, how can it be. *(Chorus)*

La la la la la la la, la la la la la la la. *(repeat)*

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

Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

✝ ✝ WORD ✝ ✝ ✝

Please be seated.

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7,12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, “There is peace and security,”
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of
the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as
others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and
those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we
may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as
indeed you are doing.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ALLELUIA (Mass of the Desert)

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *(repeat)*

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.
SERMON **Pastor Jonathan Bull**

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON SONG CHILDREN OF GOD

Praise to the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Our God and our King, to Him we will sing;
In His great mercy He has given us life.
Now we can be called the children of God.

Great is the love that the Father has given us.
He has delivered us. He has delivered us.

Children of God, sing your song and rejoice,
For the love that He has given us all.
Oh, children of God, by the blood of His Son
We have been redeemed and we can be called
The children of God, the children of God.

WOMEN:
We are the saints. We are the children.
We've been redeemed. We've been forgiven.
We are the sons and daughters of our God. *(all repeat)*

Children of God, sing your song and rejoice,
For the love that He has given us all.
Oh, children of God, by the blood of His Son
We have been redeemed and we can be called. *(repeat)*

We are the saints. We are the children.
We've been redeemed. We've been forgiven.
We are the sons and daughters of our God.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing, especially those we name silently or spoken. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG GIVE ME JESUS

In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus.

CHORUS
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world,
Give me Jesus.

And when I am alone,
And when I am alone,
And when I am alone,
Give me Jesus. *(chorus)*

And when I come to die,
And when I come to die,
And when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world.
You can have all this world.
You can have al this world.
Give me Jesus.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

✝ ✝ MEAL ✝ ✝ ✝

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord
It is made ready for those who love God
and for those who want to love God more.
So come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;
You who have been here often
and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG BREAD OF LIFE MAKE ME WHOLE

Bread of Life, make me whole. Lamb of God, heal my soul.
Living Word alive in me, shed Your blood to set me free.

We praise Your name. We praise Your name.
We praise Your name. We praise Your name. *(repeat)*

(Instrumental interlude)

We praise Your name. We praise Your name.
We praise Your name. We praise Your name.

Bread of Life, make me whole.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG **THE JESUS WAY**

If you curse me, then I will bless you,
If you hurt me, I will forgive;
And if you hate me, then I will love you,
I choose the Jesus way.

If you're helpless, I will defend you,
And if you're burdened, I'll share the weight;
And if you're hopeless, then let me show you,
There's hope in the Jesus way

CHORUS
I follow Jesus
I follow Jesus
He wore my sin, I'll gladly wear His name.
He is the treasure
He is the answer
Oh, I choose the Jesus way.

If you strike me, I will embrace you,
And if you chain me, I'll sing His praise.
And if you kill me, my home is heaven,
For I choose the Jesus way. *(chorus twice)*

Oh, I choose the Jesus way.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Experience God's love!
Thanks Be to God!

POSTLUDE **ALIVE, FOREVER, AMEN** by Travis Cottrell,
St. Paul Praise Team David Moffitt & Sue C. Smith

Altar flowers are given by Pam Sites & Steven Derwent,
in memory of Truman & Frances Pinson, and Joyce & Herb Derwent.

Prayer requests may be sent to **prayer@splcwesterville.org**

This Week's Activities at St. Paul

Sunday, 11/15

9 AM: **Contemporary Worship** (Sanctuary)
9 AM: **Adult Forum** (Library)
9:45 AM: **Journeying with Jesus** (Lower Level)
10:30 AM: **Traditional Worship** (Sanctuary)
10:30 AM: **Bible Discussions in Today's World** (Library)
6 PM: **Confirmation & HS Youth** (Fellowship Hall)
6 PM: **Dinner's Out** (Braseros Bar & Grill, NA)

Monday, 11/16

3 PM: **Music Lessons** (Nursery)
5:30 PM: **Yoga** (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM: **Drum Circle** (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM: **Congregation Council** (Library)

Tuesday, 11/17

12 PM: **Lunch Bunch** (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 PM: **Westerville Quilt Guild** (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, 11/18

9:30 AM: **Piece & Sew** (Lower Level)
5:45 PM: **Concert Choral Rehearsal** (Fellowship Hall)
6:45 PM: **Choir Rehearsal** (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM: **Praise Team Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, 11/19

10 AM: **PBS** (Library)
12:30 PM: **Creative Spaces Home School** (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM: **PBS** (Library)
7 PM: **Bell Choir Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Friday, 11/20

12 PM: **St. Paul Seniors** (Fellowship Hall)
6 PM: **Hopewood Outdoor Meeting** (Library)
7 PML **Game Night** (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, 11/21

8 AM: **Men's Breakfast** (Fellowship Hall)



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As we cultivate welcoming communities of faith with our neighbors and world, we strive for a world where everyone **"Experiences God's Love".**

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. We welcome you to join us at the table of the Lord. Our Communion Bread is gluten, peanut, tree nut, soy, and dairy-free. **White grape juice is always available in the center of the tray.** All are welcome.

NURSERY

The nursery is located at the top of the ramp of the main entrance to the church. Currently, the nursery is not staffed, however, it is available for you to use with your child. Also, for our young worshippers, please find **Worship Wonder Bags** on the small coat rack in the rear of the sanctuary, untie, and enjoy. After worship, please put the **UNTIED bag back** on the rack to be replenished and cleaned.

Online giving to St. Paul is available: Using your mobile device,
scan below or Text **SPLCGIVE** to **73256**.

CONTACTS

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MUSIC STAFF

Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries
Judy McLeod, Handbell Director
Zach Ruppel, Director of Contemporary Music
Philip Cordell, Organist
Susan Treer, Contemporary Keyboardist

Church Office: M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed for lunch: 12 PM- 1 PM

Please contact us if you have any questions. Check out the web site for more information.
St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.