

14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025
10:30 AM



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

JESUS, LORD TO ME

arr. D. Kartsonakis

Philip Cordell, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THE WAY OF THE LORD

by Franklin Ritter

Carole Williams, organ

✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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 us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

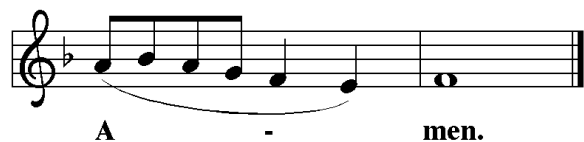
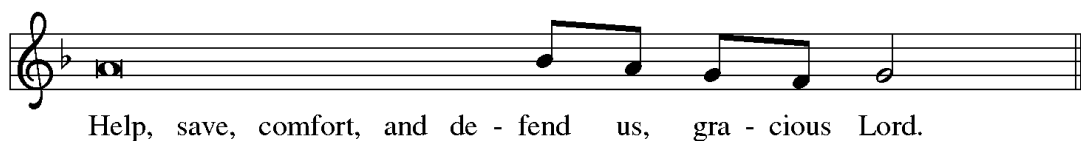
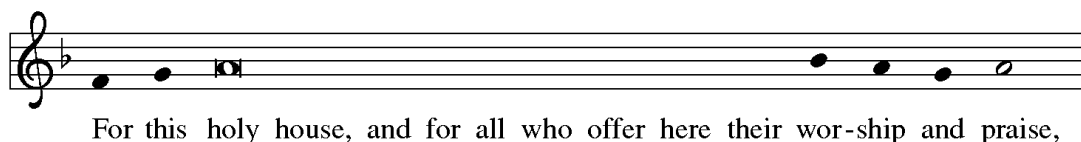
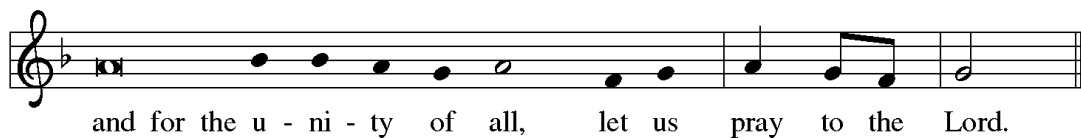
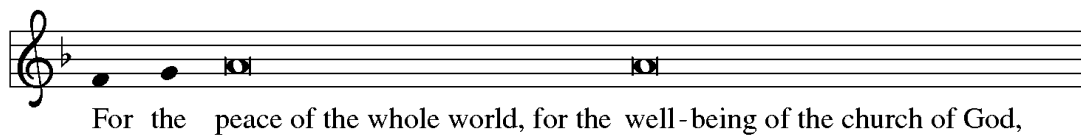
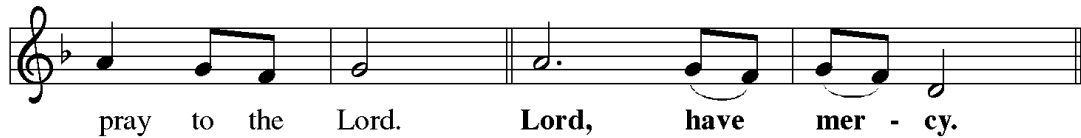
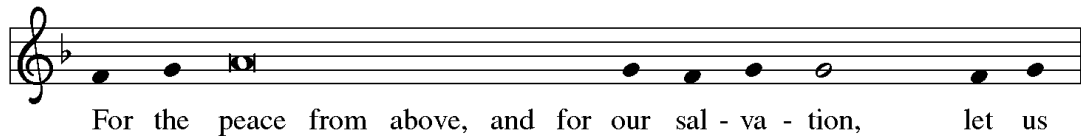
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

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.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

continued on the next page

3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ WORD ✠ ✠ ✠

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

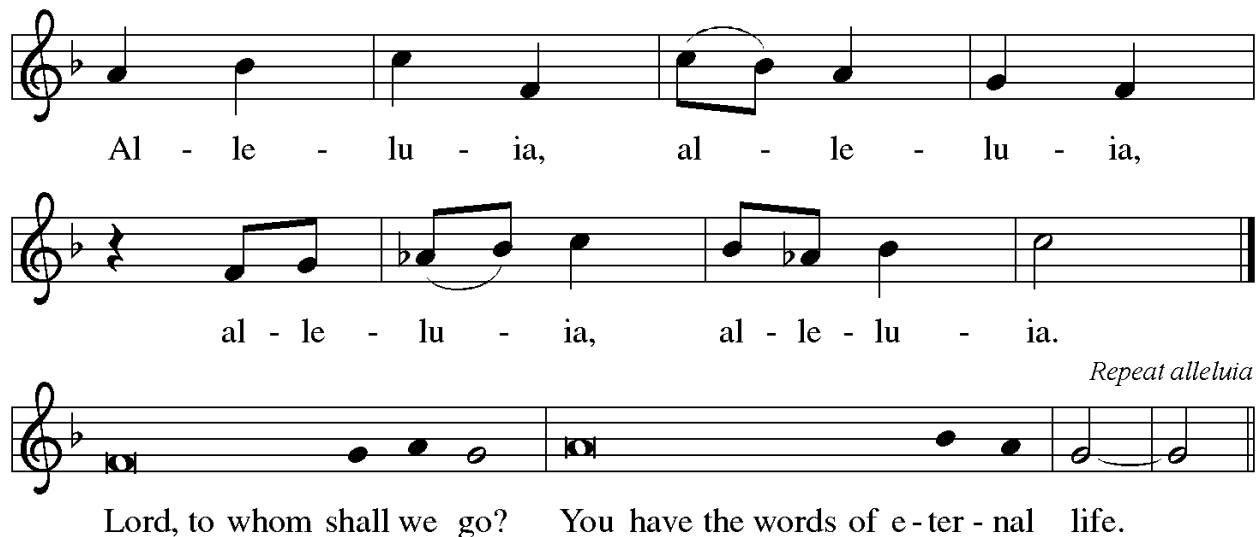
¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, o Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

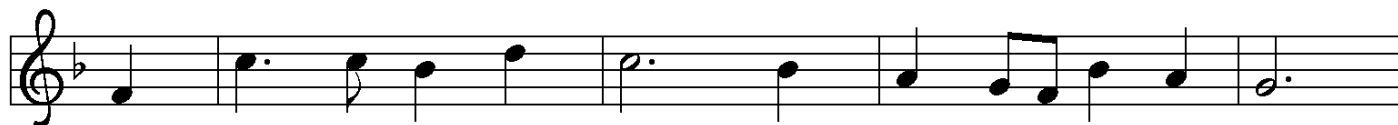
Pastor Jonathan Bull

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

OH PRAISE THE GRACIOUS POWER

ELW 651



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain especially those we name silently or spoken. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

HIS LOVE FOR ME

arr. Brian Buda

St. Paul Vocal Choir

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

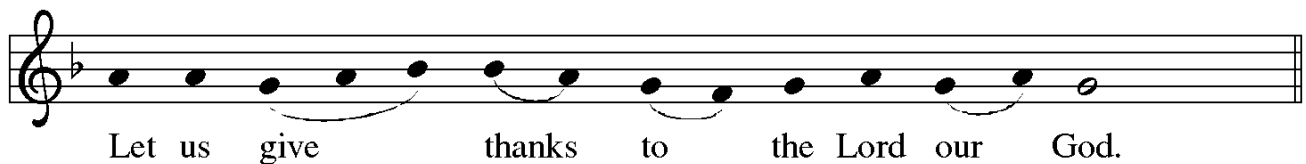
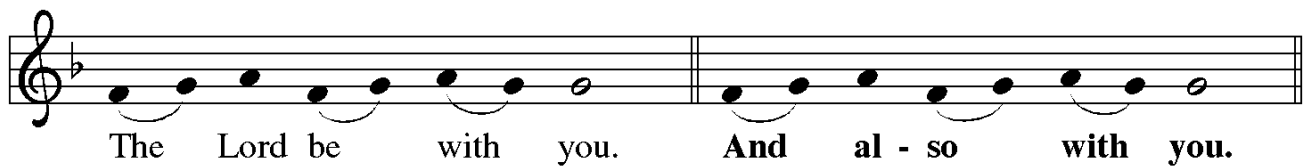
to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ MEAL ✠ ✠ ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

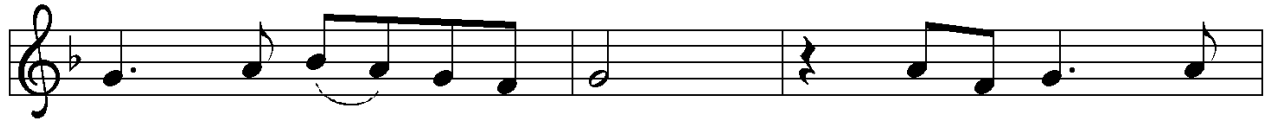
LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



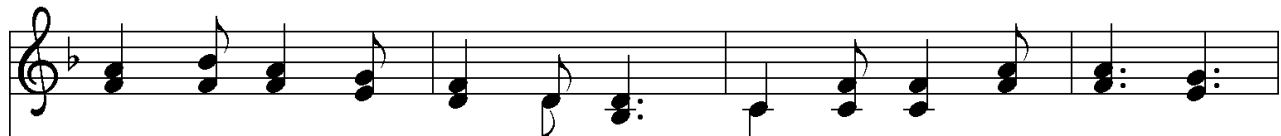
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the




world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.




1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



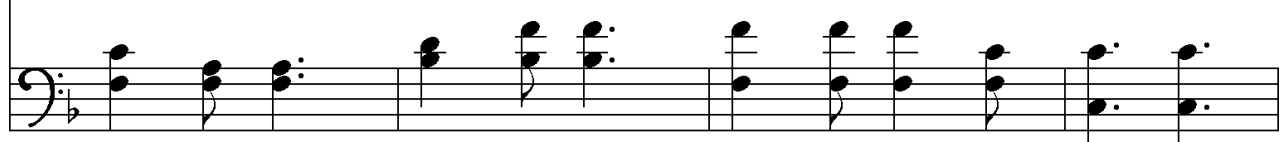
free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.



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 HYMN



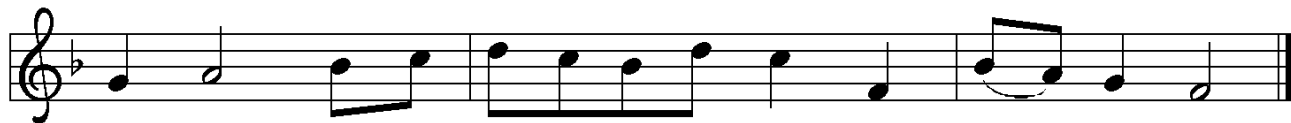
Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



SENDING



BLESSING

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

Amen.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISAL

Go in peace. Share the good news of God's love.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

POSTLUDIIUM IN F

by Louise E. Stairs

*Carole Williams, organ**(Livestream)*

THE CHILD IN EACH OF US

arr. M. Ham

Philip Cordell, piano

Altar Flowers are given today by Faith Kappeler McCafferty in memory of Shirley Kappeler.

Special thanks to Carole Williams for playing the organ today.

Prayer requests may be sent to prayers@splcwesterville.org.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday, 9/14

- 9 AM: **Contemporary Worship** (Sanctuary)
- 9 AM: **Adult Form** (Lower Level)
- 9 AM: **Journeying with Jesus** (Lower level)
- 9 AM: **Harold Kruse Memorial Book Event**
(Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30 AM: **Discussions in Today's World**
(Library)
- 10:30 AM: **Worship** (Sanctuary)
- 4 PM: **Healthy Body & Healthy Mind** (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 PM: **Concessions for Concert** (Shelter House)
- 6 PM: **Praise Band Concert** (Shelter House)

Monday, 9/15

- 3 PM: **Music Lessons** (Nursery)
- 5:30 PM: **Yoga** (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, 9/16

- 11 AM: **Seniors – Utica Outing**
- 12 PM: **Lunch Bunch** (Shelter House)
- 6 PM: **Ladies Night Out** (Rusty Bucket, Polaris)

Wednesday, 9/17

- 9:30 AM: **Piece & Sew** (Lower Level)
- 6:30 PM: **Vocal Choir Rehearsal** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7 PM: **Fireside Chat** (Shelter House)
- 7:30 PM: **Praise Team Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, 9/18

- 10 AM: **Pastor's Bible Study** (Library)
- 6:45 PM: **Bell Choir Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)
- 7 PM: **Pastor's Bible Study** (Library)

PERMISSIONS

Scripture passages are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All Rights reserved worldwide.

Worship Texts are portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and sundayandseasons.com; © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress. Permission is granted to reproduce this material for non-sale, local use, provided that this copyright notice is included.

Jesus, Lord to Me, arr. D. Kartsonakis, performed by Philip Cordell, Used with Permission. *The Way of the Lord*, by Franklin Ritter, performed by Carole Williams, Used with Permission. *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*, Text Music Public Domain. *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*, Text and music from New Hymns for the Lectionary, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.; Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-728642. All rights reserved.; Permission to podcast/stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-728642. All rights reserved. *His Love for Me*, arr. Brian Buda, performed by St. Paul Vocal Choir, Used with Permission. *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*, Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.; Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-728642. All rights reserved.; Permission to podcast/stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-728642. All rights reserved. *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*, Text and Music Public Domain. *When I Survey the Wonderful Cross*, Text and Music Public Domain. *Postludium in F*, by Louise E. Stairs, performed by Carole Williams, Used with Permission. *The Child In Each of Us (Medley)*, arr. M. Ham, performed by Philip Cordell, Used with Permission.



Free Concert!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 2025

ST PAUL LUTHERAN PRAISE BAND

Concessions | 5:30

Concert | 6:00

SPLC Shelterhouse

Weather Permitting!



Freewill offering
to support the
Praise Band's
future gear &
tech upgrades!



**4686 E. WALNUT ST
WESTERVILLE, OH 43081**

Questions?

zach.ruppel@splcwesterville.org

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

Pastor Jonathan Bull, 614-886-5364,
jon.bull@splcwesterville.org

Pastor Gary Grieger, 989-350-8411,
gary.grieger@splcwesterville.org

Karla Kruse, 614-882-7601,
karla.kruse@splcwesterville.org

Amy Drake, 614-882-7601,
amy.drake@splcwesterville.org

Prayer requests may be sent to
prayer@splcwesterville.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Closed for lunch: 12 pm – 1 pm

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

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.

