

18th Sunday of Pentecost
September 27, 2026
10:30 AM



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

by G. Atkins & W. Moore

BRETHREN, WE HAVE MET TO WORSHIP

arr. M. Bober

Philip Cordell, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHORALE PRELUDE

by P. Kreckel

Philip Cordell, 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.

Amen.

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.

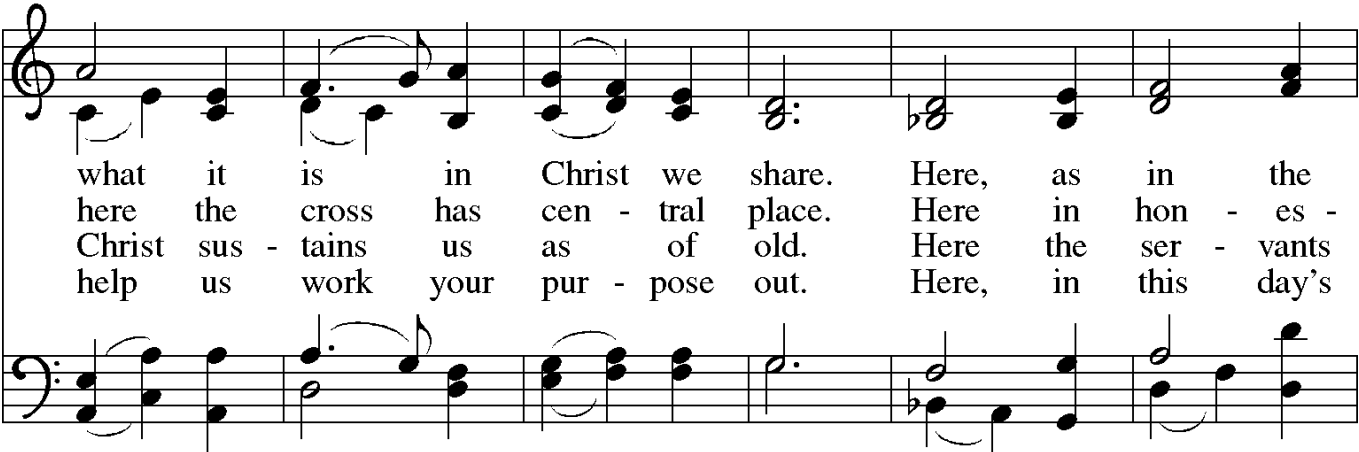
Amen.



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

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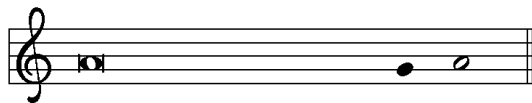
world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

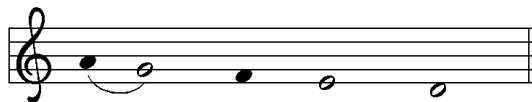
GREETING

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



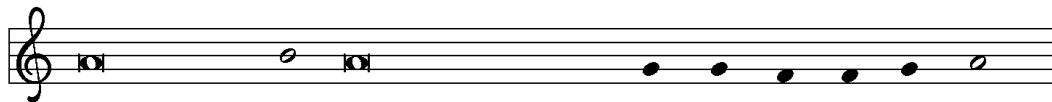
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



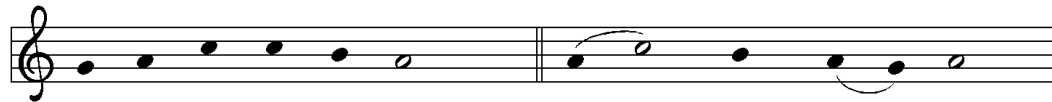
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

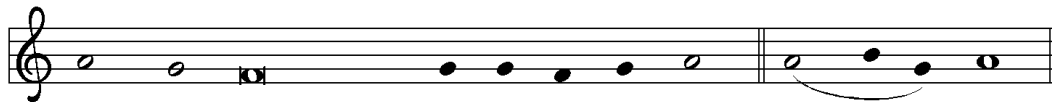


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ **WORD** ✠ ✠ ✠

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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

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

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

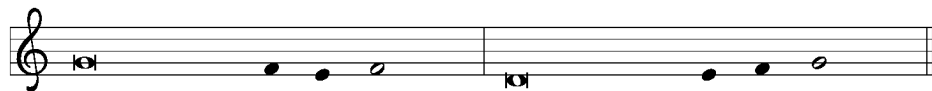
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

Sing the psalm responsively by whole verse.



- ¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Bull

DEDICATION OF PROJECTS

Good and Gracious God,

We dedicate these quilts, trusting fully that your love will go wherever they are taken. They are far more than pieces of material sewn together; they are a sacred gathering of many parts, created through the hands of many, each stitch offered as an intentional expression of love, compassion, and kindness.

We acknowledge that we cannot begin to measure the power or lasting impact of a simple act of kindness — how something as humble as a quilt:

can be used by you to extend comfort, reflect your grace, and radiate your love into the lives of others.

We place these quilts in your service, asking that you use them as instruments of blessings, that they bring warmth to the body and peace to the heart, and serve as reminders to those who receive them that they are valued, faithfully supported, and continually surrounded by your presence and care.

Bless those who created these quilts and those who receive them. Let your goodness be known through this gift now and in the days ahead. We offer this dedication with grateful hearts, trusting all things into your loving hands.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

LORD, KEEP ME STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

ELW 517

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a four-part harmony. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the third system. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn, the second system contains the next three lines, and the third system contains the final three lines. The lyrics are: 1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife and bring to naught all he has done. and may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly. and lead us out of death to life.

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and

by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
and may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially those we name silently or spoken. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

THE POTTER'S HAND

arr. Lloyd Larson

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 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.

God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

Amen.



DIALOGUE

The Dialogue section consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

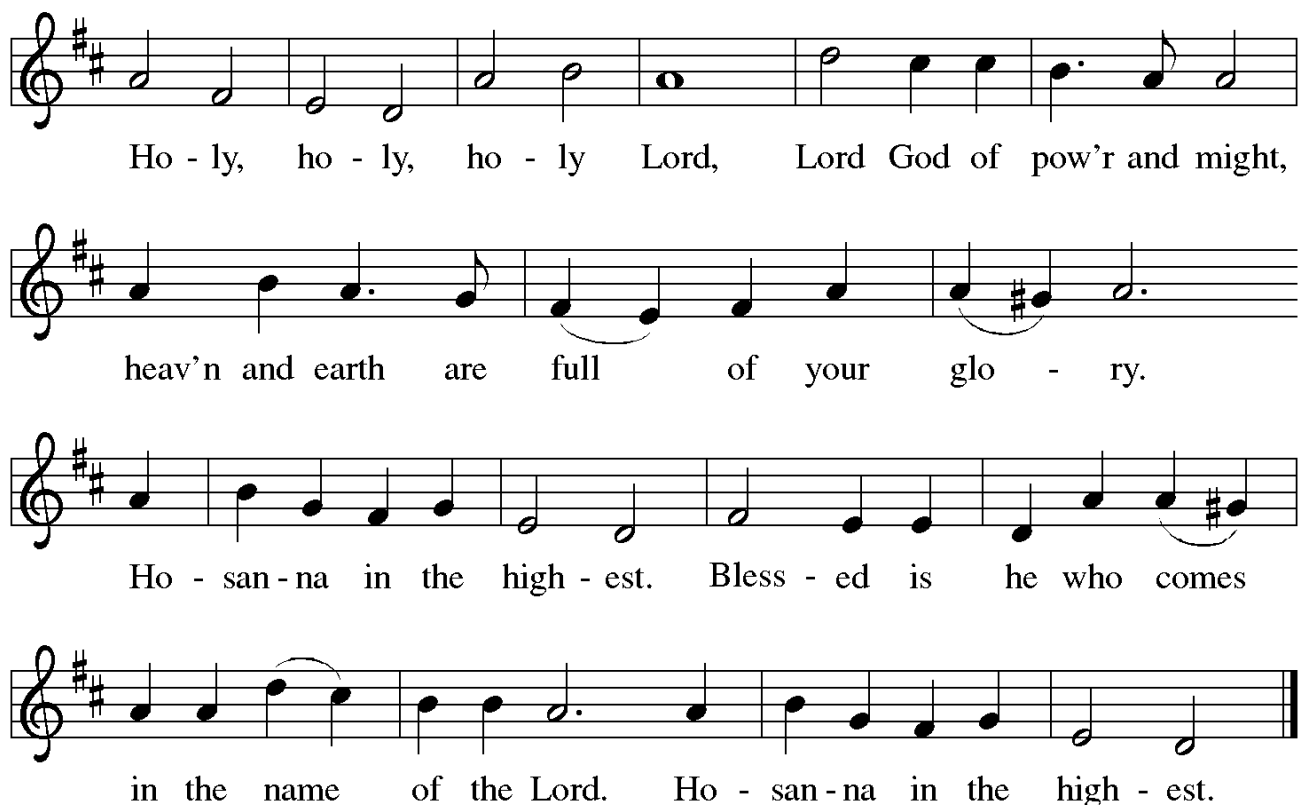
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

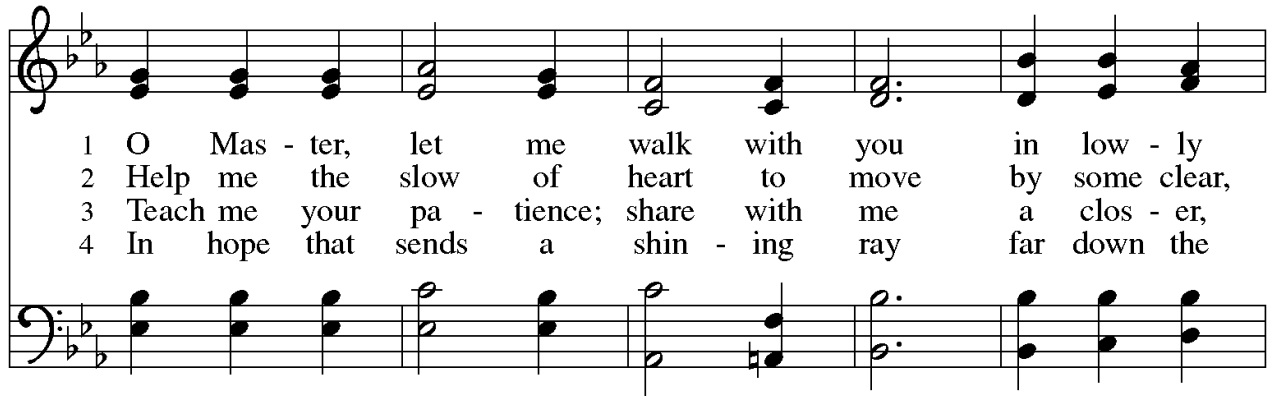


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

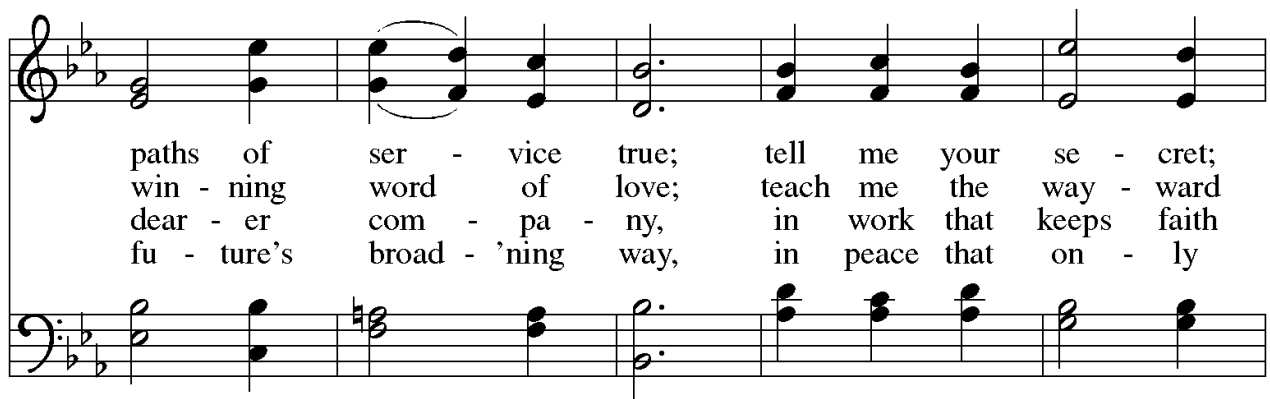


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

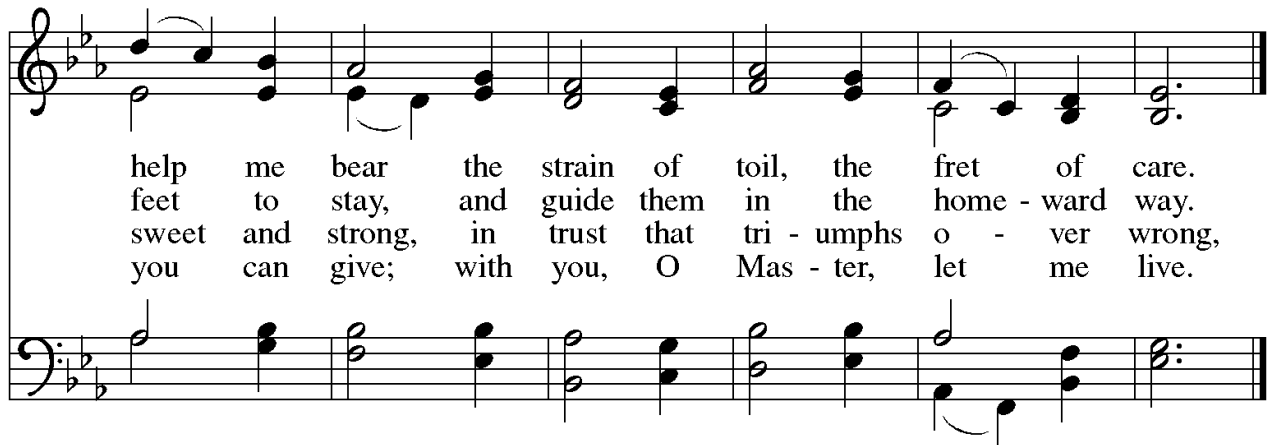
O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.



SENDING



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with two verses of the first line. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano staff. The final system ends with a double bar line.

(continued on the next page)

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS

by G.M. Martin

Philip Cordell, organ

Altar flowers are in celebration of Helmut & Linda Bachner's 56th wedding Anniversary!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday, 9/27

9 AM: **Contemporary Worship** (Sanctuary)
9 AM: **Adult Forum** (Library)
9:45 AM: **Journeying with Jesus** (Lower Level)
10:30 AM: **Worship** (Sanctuary)
10:30 AM: **Bible Discussions in Today's World** (Library)
3 PM: **St. Paul Cares** (Library)
6 PM: **Confirmation & HS Youth** (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, 9/28

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

Wednesday, 9/30

9:30 AM: **Piece & Sew** (Lower Level)
7:30 PM: **Praise Team Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, 10/1

10 AM: **PBS** (Library)
12:30 PM: **Creative Spaces Homeschool** (Fellowship Hall)
6 PM: **Inreach/Outreach** (Library)
7 PM: **PBS** (Library)
7 PM: **Bell Choir Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

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ST.
PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 175 Years of St. Paul Lutheran Church

Founded in Christ, Forward in Faith

*WE WILL TELL TO THE COMING GENERATION, THE
GLORIOUS DEEDS OF THE LORD. PSALM 78:4B*



GRACIOUS
STEWARDSHIP

Faithfully using the
gifts God entrusts to
us for His glory.



INSPIRING
WORSHIP

Gathering to praise
God through music,
prayer, and His Word.



AUTHENTIC
RELATIONSHIPS

Walking alongside
one another in
grace and love.



NURTURING
COMMUNITY

Growing together as
a family rooted in
Christ's compassion.

Shop SPLC 175th
Merchandise



JOIN US FOR A YEAR OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE
CULMINATING CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2027

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, **October 25** ~

All Congregation
Campaign Event

Luncheon : 12 - 2 PM

ALL WELCOME

RSVP by 10/9

Sunday, **November 1** ~
Commitment Sunday



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS. BUILDING FAITH FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

*"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders."
— Psalm 78:4, NLT*

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul,

For nearly 175 years, God has gathered people at St. Paul around the Word, the sacraments, and a shared life of service. Lutherans organized this congregation in 1852. Since then, one generation after another has prayed here, learned here, cared for neighbors, and passed this community of faith to those who followed.

Now it is our turn to care for what we have received, and prepare St. Paul for those who will follow us.

The **Forward in Faith** Capital Campaign brings several needs into one shared vision for ministry. Our parking lot, roof, heating and cooling systems (HVAC), and our boiler require significant work. Reducing the mortgage can free up funds for the ministry God calls us to. Solar power can lower energy costs and help us care for all creation. Additionally, a two-year seed investment for a Children, Youth, and Family Ministry position can give children, young people, and families steady support as they grow in faith.

Every part of this campaign serves our people, our congregation, and our community. A safe parking lot helps members and guests enter with confidence. A lasting roof shelters worship, learning, fellowship, and service. Reliable heating and cooling make it possible to gather throughout the year. Less debt leaves greater room in the budget for ministry. A dedicated staff person helps families practice faith at home and helps St. Paul share the gospel with a new generation.

Our base goal for the Capital Campaign is \$1.22 million. It will fund the parking lot, roof, and HVAC priorities. The full campaign goal is \$1.81 million. It adds mortgage retirement, solar power, and two years of children, youth, and family ministry leadership.

As you read this letter, we invite you to pray about St. Paul's ministry and the people who will find welcome, grace, and belonging here in the years ahead. Consider how you might take part. Gifts will differ in size, and each household will respond from its own circumstances. Together, we can move **Forward in Faith** with gratitude for God's faithfulness and hope for all that God is and will do among us.

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan Bull
Senior Pastor

Keelie Jurrus
Campaign Co-Chair

Kevin McJunkin
Campaign Co-Chair



Yesterday morning we kicked off the **Forward in Faith** Capital Campaign with Inspiration Visits! Every household at St. Paul was visited by a St. Paul member who dropped off **Inspiration Gifts** that have three items: a Generosity Storybook sharing stories of how God has acted generously in and through the lives of our people here at St. Paul; a **Forward in Faith** Capital Campaign Prayer Card so that we can pray together for the success and vitality of the **Forward in Faith** Capital Campaign; and a save-the-date invitation to our **All Congregation 175th Celebration and Campaign Event** where we will have the opportunity to celebrate the history and future of our church. If you weren't home yesterday morning, make sure you check your front door for your **Inspiration Gifts**!

Recognize Your Need to Give

In a world focused on getting more, the Christian call to generosity invites us to see giving in a new light. Generosity begins with recognizing that all we have—time, skills, and resources—is a gift from God. This awareness frees us from fear of scarcity and helps us view what we hold not as possessions to protect, but as tools for building God's reign of love and justice.

Scripture paints a clear picture of this joy. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we read, "God loves a cheerful giver." The heart of generosity is not the size of the gift but the spirit in which it's given. When we share freely, we reflect Christ's love, strengthen relationships, and nurture a spirit of unity.

Giving also shapes our hearts. It builds gratitude and reminds us that we need one another. This connection blesses those who receive and deepens our own walk of faith.

Our call to give is not about buildings or budgets—it is about who God made us to be. We are created in the image of the generous One. Each act of generosity reflects the character of God within us and draws us closer to the life God longs for all people.

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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Amy Drake, 614-882-7601,
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Prayer requests may be sent to
prayer@splcwesterville.org

MUSIC STAFF

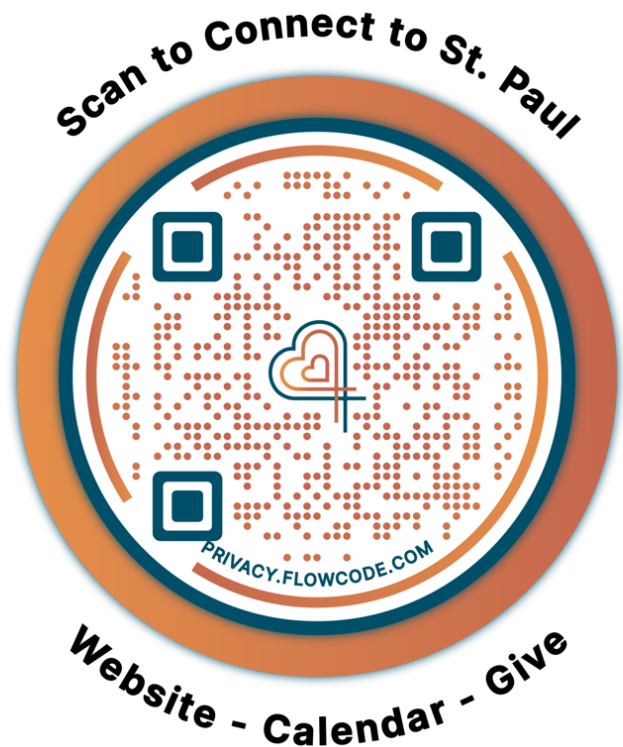
Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries

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.