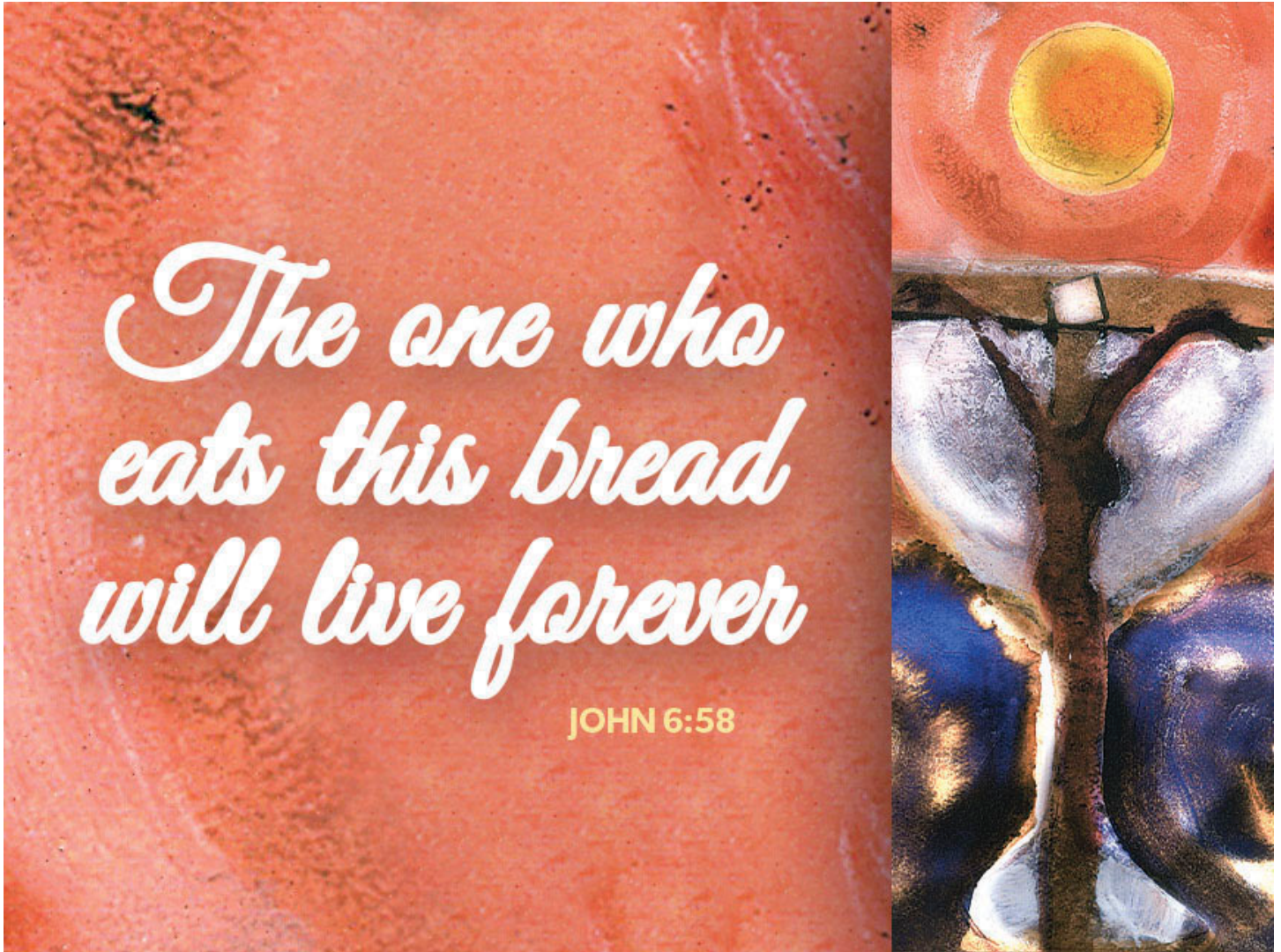


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 18th, 2024



WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here!



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Loren Veigel to the glory of God.

Today's Worship Theme

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Readings and Psalm

Proverbs 9:1-6

Invited to dine at wisdom's feast

Psalm 34:9-14

Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good. (*Ps. 34:10*)

Ephesians 5:15-20

Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God

John 6:51-58

Christ the true food and drink

Refrain



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



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



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



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



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

Refrain



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



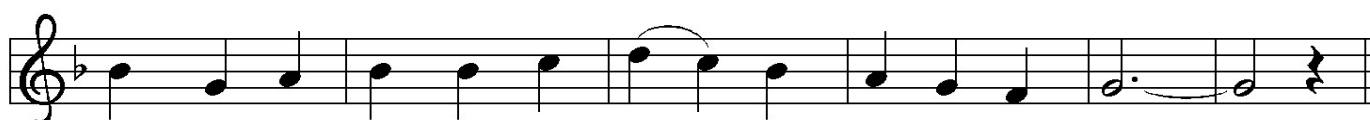
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



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



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, 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. al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

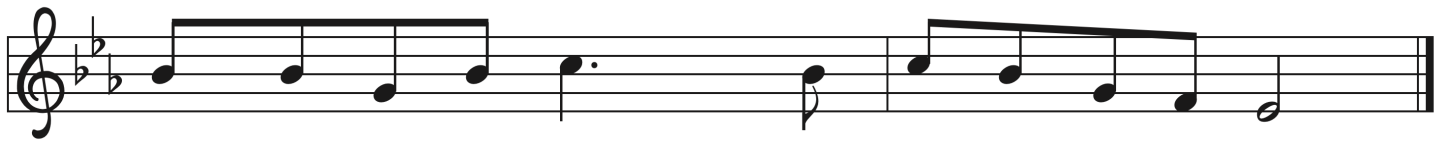
First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
- ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
- ⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
- ⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 34:9-14



Those who seek the LORD lack noth - ing that is good.

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good. R**

¹¹Come, children, and lis - | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes plea - | sure in life
and desires long life to en - | joy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil | and do good;
seek peace | and pursue it. R**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

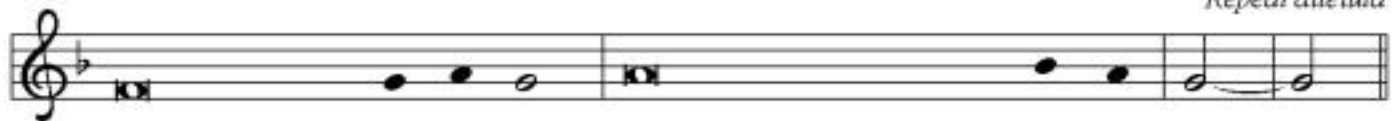


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



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.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

The holy gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need

After each petition the following response is given:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM Biblical Songs, Op. 99: No. 6: Hear, O, Lord, My Bitter Cry Dvořák
Mr. Rambler

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

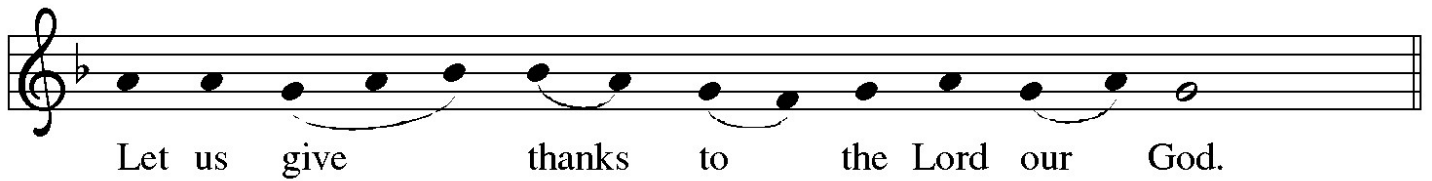
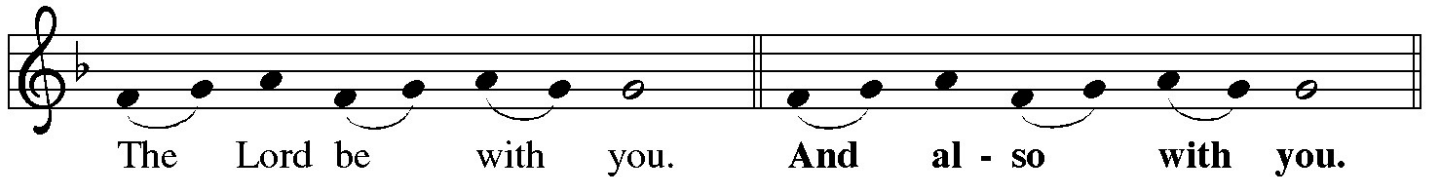
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

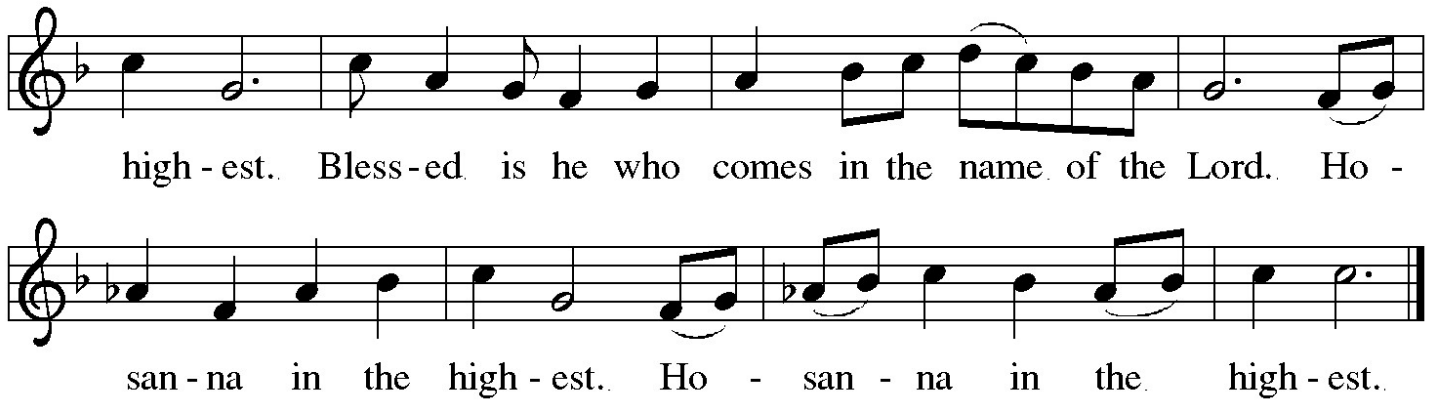
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, 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:





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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
 Come!

COMMUNION SONG

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.

Communion

"Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
 † be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Matthew H. Corl (b. 1965)

In our prayers today we will remember

Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Risa Blyer, Michael Jordan, Rick Theiss, Mary Ann Hinton, Dave Paul, Cheryl Lash, Jessica Swank, Mary Martin, Mary Ann Breslin, Amy White, Lindsay Mays, Errett Butler, Theresa Eckleberry, Chris Collard, and Bobbee DeGordon.

Save the Dates for Bell Choir

Bell choir rehearsals will resume September 25, October 2, and October 9
in preparation to ring October 13

AND

November 20, December 4, and December 11 in preparation to ring December 15!

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$377,000
Funds raised	\$298,334
Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 78,666

Thursday Bible Study

Beginning September 5th 10:00 am

During the Month of September, we will finish “The Women of the Bible by Max Lucado.

Starting October 3rd, we will begin a new study titled *The Grace of Les Misérables*. Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you’ve tackled the 1,400-page 19th-century novel, witnessed the Broadway musical (and memorized its soundtrack), or seen the several screen adaptations of it, you already know the power of its story.

In the six-week study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo’s story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world.

Movie Night

Sunday September 22nd 4:00pm

Les Misérables the Musical starring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, & Russell Crowe. Come and enjoy this wonderful adaptation of the Broadway Musical. There will be pizza, soda, and other snacks.

Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives

American Red Cross Blood Services

Choose a Donation Time

St Paul Lutheran Church [Change](#)
127 Cherry Road NE
Massillon, OH 44646

08/26/2024 | 12:00 PM - 06:00 PM

What is: [Power Red](#) | [Blood](#)

Tap the donation you want to give:

12:00 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>
12:30 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>
1:00 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>
1:30 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>
2:00 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>
2:15 PM	<input type="button" value="Blood"/>	<input type="button" value="Power Red"/>

Map | Satellite

Home | Eligibility Info | Email Us | 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

St. Paul’s will be hosting a blood drive on August 26, noon-6:00.

Search on redcross.org by putting in area code 44646 to sign up for available times to give.

Preview of next year's Concert Series

Dr. Abigail Haake, our Director of Music, is pleased to present next season's artists.
If you are interested in becoming a patron for this upcoming year,
please let the office or Dr. Haake know.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PATRON OF THE 2024-2025 CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES

Amount of Gift Included in Offering Envelope

Patron \$50+ _____

Beethoven Circle \$150+ _____

Bach Circle \$250 + _____

Conductor's Circle \$500 and over _____

NAME(S) for Concert Programs: _____

Check here if you do NOT want to be listed in the program. _____

Email address: _____

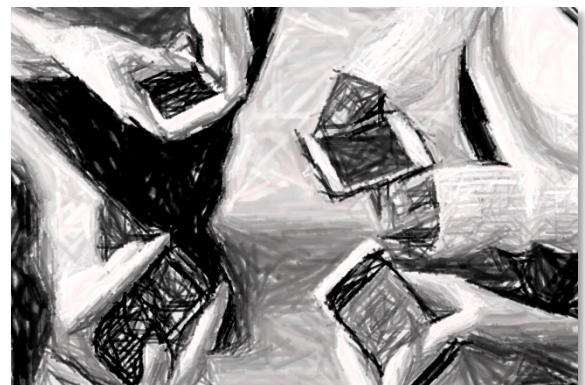
- **September 29th, 2024 5:00PM** Singers Companye
- **October 6th, 2024 4:00 PM** James Kibbie, organ
- **November 7th, 2024 7:00 PM** Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus
- **February 23rd, 2025 4:00 PM** Minnita Daniel-Cox, soprano
- **March 9th, 2025 4:00 PM** OPUS 216 String Quintet
- **May 17th, 2025 2:00 PM** Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Lector	Larry & Kim Oberlin
Assisting Minister	Karl Kalk
Communion Assistants	Dwight Butler & Kathryn Myers
Greeters	Gary Collard
Sacristy	Sandi Bennet
Ushers	Sue Ambrosic, Patty Long Becky Johnson, & Sue Reid
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN	O Living Bread from Heaven	ELW 542
Public Domain		

HYMN OF THE DAY	I Am the Bread of Life	ELW 485
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Communion	Blessed Assurance	ELW 638
Public Domain		

SENDING HYMN	Now Thank We All Our God	ELW 840
Public Domain		

Images in the Readings

John's word "**flesh**" echoes the common Hebrew designation for humans as "bone and flesh," the hard and the soft of actual created matter. Adam recognizes Eve as his own bone and flesh. However, in descriptions of battle death, the Hebrew writes of "flesh and blood," so perhaps John meant to invoke the brutal death of Christ with his use of "flesh." In either case, "flesh" can recall the naturalism of Hebrew religion, as opposed to the more philosophically oriented Greek language and religion. The evangelist John was able to combine Greek categories such as Logos with a more Hebraic worldview indicated by "flesh." The more Greek usage of the term is found in Paul, for whom *sarx*, flesh, means inherent human sinfulness. Perhaps for us, calling the bread of communion the flesh of Christ means to hit us in the face with the reality of sacramental meaning. The use of genuine bread, for example, freshly baked pita or a large single flat bread, will enhance the experience of communing in the solidarity of Christ.

In a time that touts easy access to everything we want, we need to heed the biblical **Wisdom**. She comes from God, she is authoritative and mature, and she calls us walk uprightly. As a female biblical image for God, she complements the mother. No longer nursing an infant, Wisdom is constructing buildings and slaughtering animals for a massive feast.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

There is in Wisdom a spirit that is intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,
irresistible, beneficent, humane,
steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,
all-powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all spirits
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.
For Wisdom is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty.
She is a reflection of eternal light,
a spotless mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.
She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
and she orders all things well.

—Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-26; 8:1

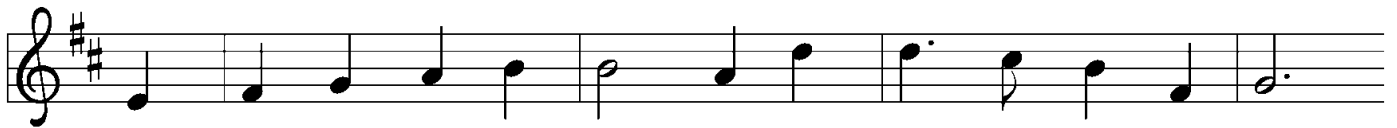
O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . .

Refrain

All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

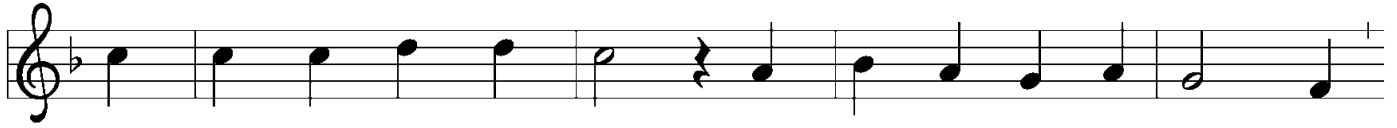


this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662