

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 22nd, 2024

Whoever
welcomes
one such child
in my name
welcomes me

MARK 9:37



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 Vivianne Greene in loving memory of her parents Jack & Masse Richards

The **Throne Flowers** were given Tracie Schmolt in honor of Dan Farrar's 75th birthday.

Today's Worship Theme Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 11:18-20

The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter

Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom from above

Mark 9:30-37

Prediction of the passion

The Westminster Strike
Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Kum Ba Yah (Come by Here) Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843

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.

Refrain



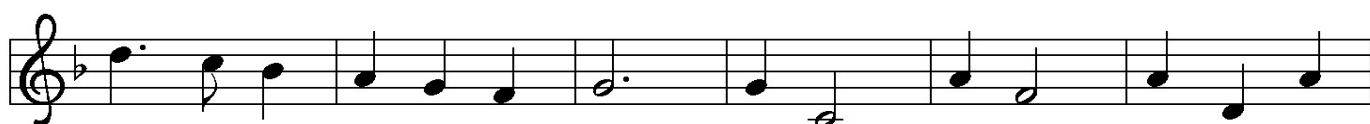
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
 then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
 led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
 that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
 let us cut him off from the land of the living,
 so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
 who try the heart and the mind,
 let me see your retribution upon them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 54

God is my help - er; it is the
LORD who sus - tains my life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "God is my help - er; it is the". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "LORD who sus - tains my life." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

¹Save me, O God, ¹by your name;
in your might, de- ¹fend my cause.

²**Hear my ¹prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words ¹of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have ¹sought my life,
those who have no re- ¹gard for God.

⁴**Behold, God ¹is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- ¹tains my life. R

⁵Render evil to those who ¹spy on me;
in your faithful- ¹ness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a ¹freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for ¹it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from ¹every trouble,
and my eye looks down ¹on my enemies. **R**

Second Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to

God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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: Mark 9:30-37

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Loving Spirit

ELW 397

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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

After each petition the following response is given:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY: Savior Teach Me Day by Day
Chancel Choir

Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

OFFERTORY



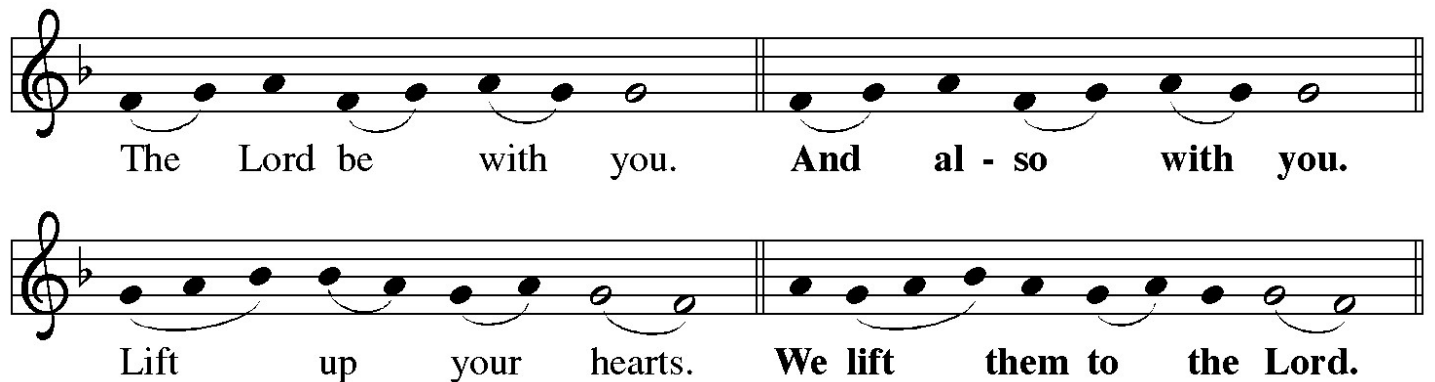
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

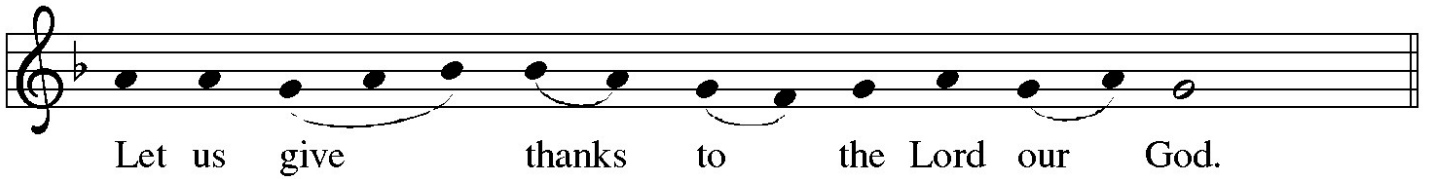
Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

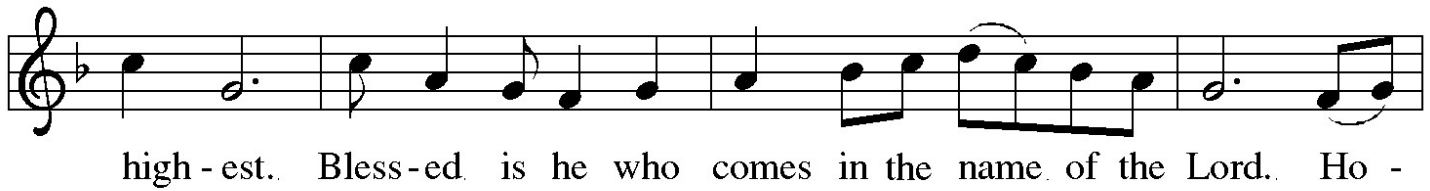
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



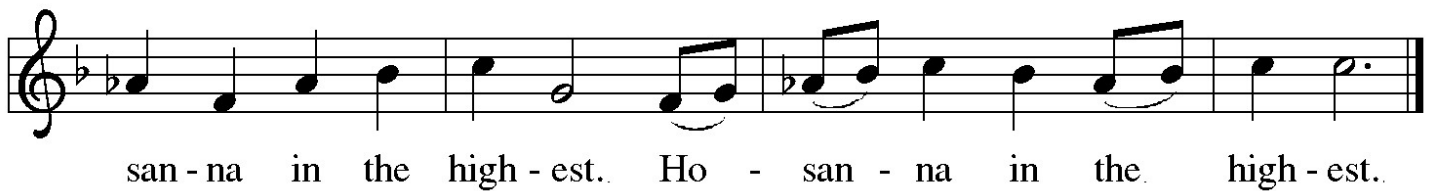
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



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.

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

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
 Come, here is your God.

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:

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Postlude in D

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

In our prayers today we will remember

Rosemary Stephen, Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Risa Blyer, Michael Jordan, Mary Ann Hinton, Mary Martin, Amy White, Lindsay Mays, Theresa Eckleberry, and Bobbee DeGordon.

Adult Sunday School

Let's Start at the Beginning!

God saw everything that he made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

We will begin our new series this fall with a study of key stories from the book of Genesis. Some of these stories will be more familiar than others, but all will clearly show that God makes and keeps promises that reflect God's abundant love and grace for all creation. The class meets on Sundays at 11:30, beginning September 8th, upper level of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access. Please consider joining us!

Movie Night

Sunday September 22nd 4:00 pm *Les Misérables, the Musical*, starring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, and Russell Crowe. Come and enjoy this wonderful adaptation of the Broadway Musical. There will be pizza, soda, and other snacks.

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.

Community Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 6 at 3pm.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Bring your vaccinated critter and a lawn chair. Holy Trinity is located at Holy Trinity (275 Lincoln Way W, Massillon, OH)

Chancel Choir has started up for fall

Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 was the first rehearsal for the Chancel Choir. The choir meets every Wednesday evening upstairs in the Parish Hall.

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!

First Cathedral Concert of the Season



Singer's Company, September 29, 5:00 pm



Art Show from 3-5 pm prior to concert, held in the lounge.

The 2024-2025 Concert Series

Dr. Abigail Haake, our Director of Music, is pleased to present this season's artists.
Please consider becoming a patron for this upcoming year.

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

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$377,000
Funds raised	\$302,159
Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 74,841

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	Heidi Hall
Assisting Minister	Carol Stoner
Communion Assistants	Tracie Schmolt & Carol Stoner
Greeters	Pastor Lynn & LaShell Williamson
Sacristy	Sue Ambrosic
Ushers	Dave Dourm, Russ Poling, Phil Halco, & Tracie Schmolt
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843
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HYMN OF THE DAY Loving Spirit ELW 397
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Communion: **Jesus Loves Me** **ELW 595**
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SENDING HYMN Lord of All Hopefulness ELW 765
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Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Loving Spirit



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Jesus Loves Me!

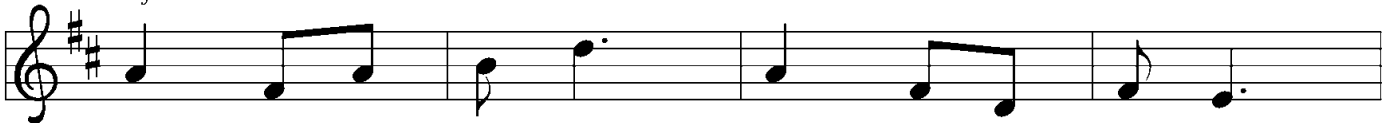


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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