

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025



*My sheep  
hear my  
voice*

JOHN 10:27

# *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 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 Jan Geuy in honor of Monte & Jan's 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

The **Throne Flowers** were given by John, Abby, & Henry Haake in honor of Thomas Haake's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Introduction**

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 9:36-43**

*Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead.*

#### **Psalm 23**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

*A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb.*

#### **John 10:22-30**

*Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep.*

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**Today's Hymns from the Tower**

**Prelude:** Waltz, Op. 39, No. 15  
Thomas Haake, violin

Church Carillon  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ELW 836

## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

Assisting minister



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

All



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.



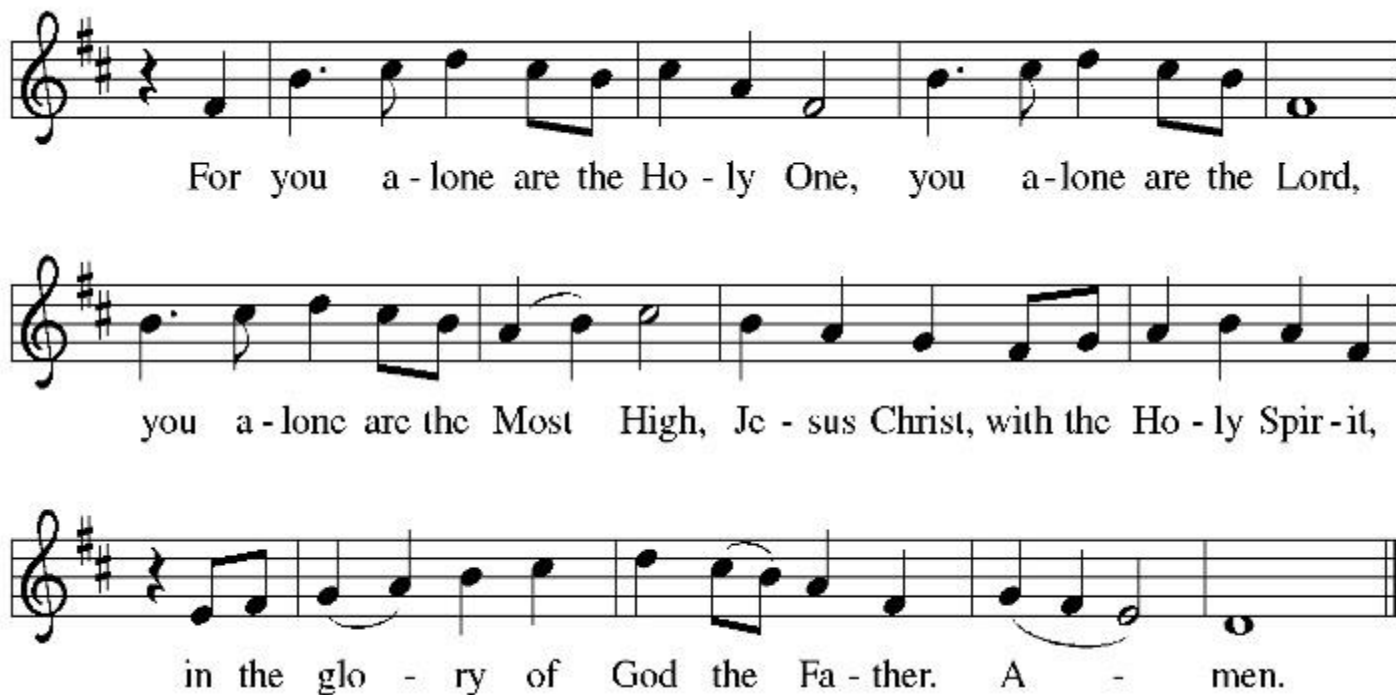
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed

her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

How Great Thou Art  
Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

## **Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.



**Thanks be to God.**

**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: John 10:22-30**

The Gospel according to John, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,  
<sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of our Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Mark Kreemer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

## **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**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANTHEM**      Let Light Shine Out of Darkness      John Behnke (b. 1953)  
Chancel Choir Tenors and Basses



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.

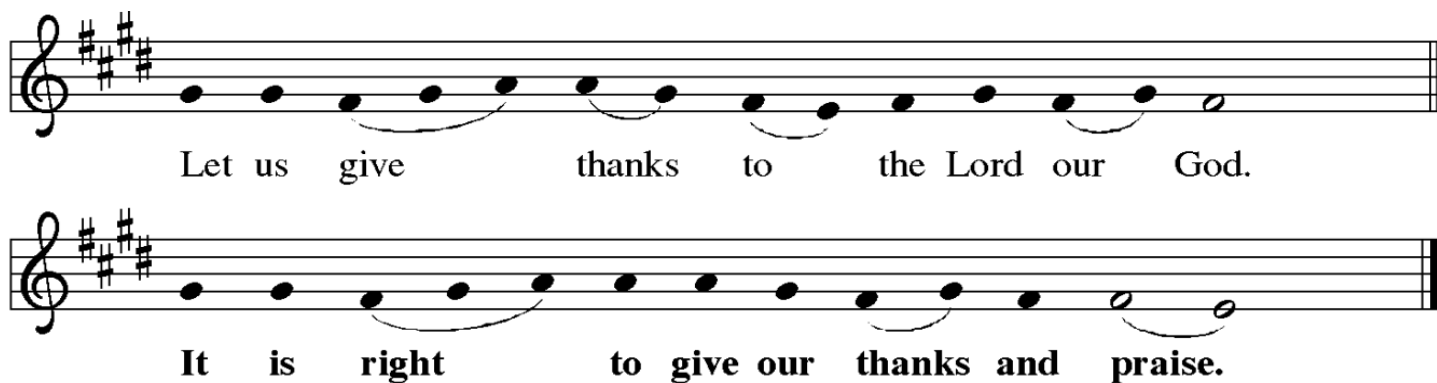
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

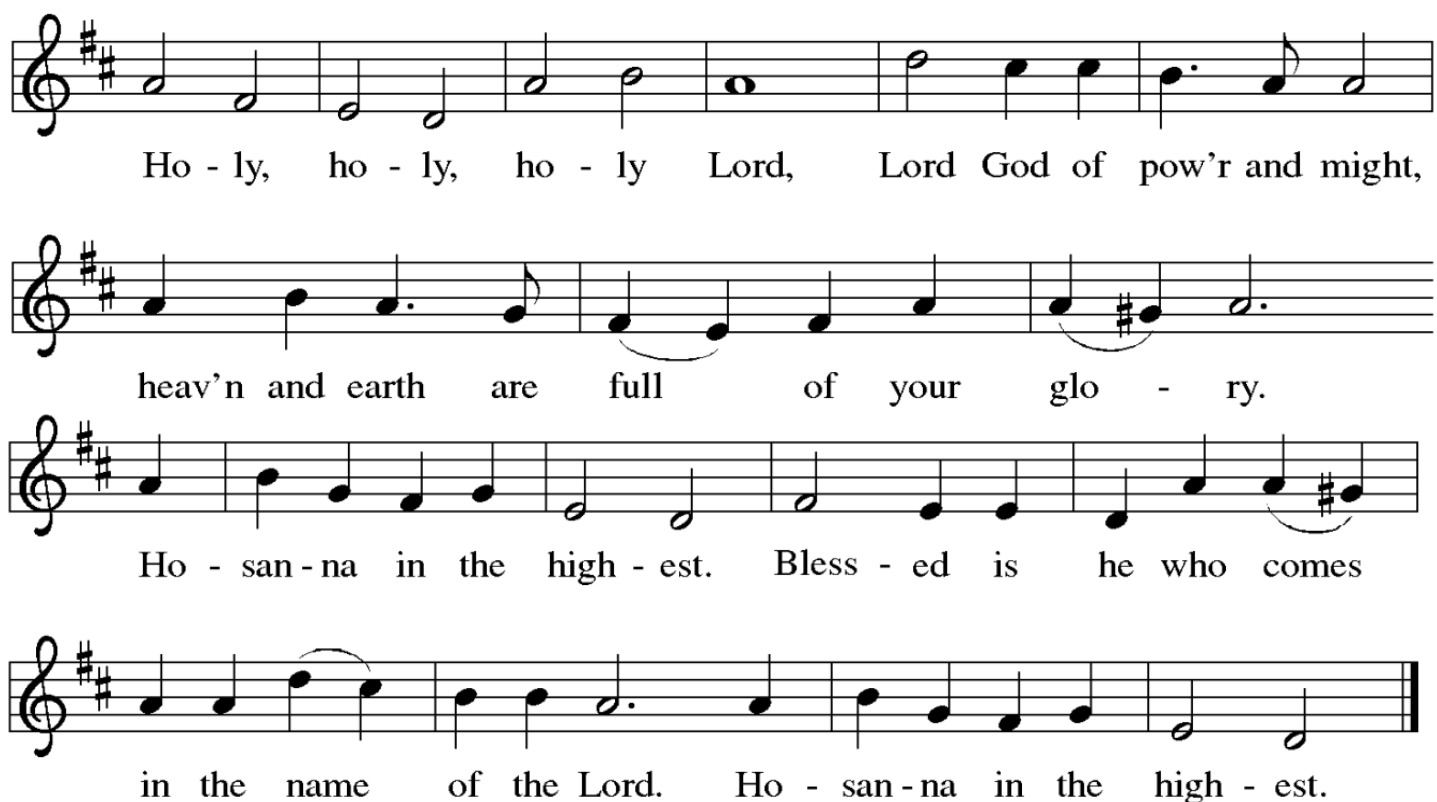
Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... 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:



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

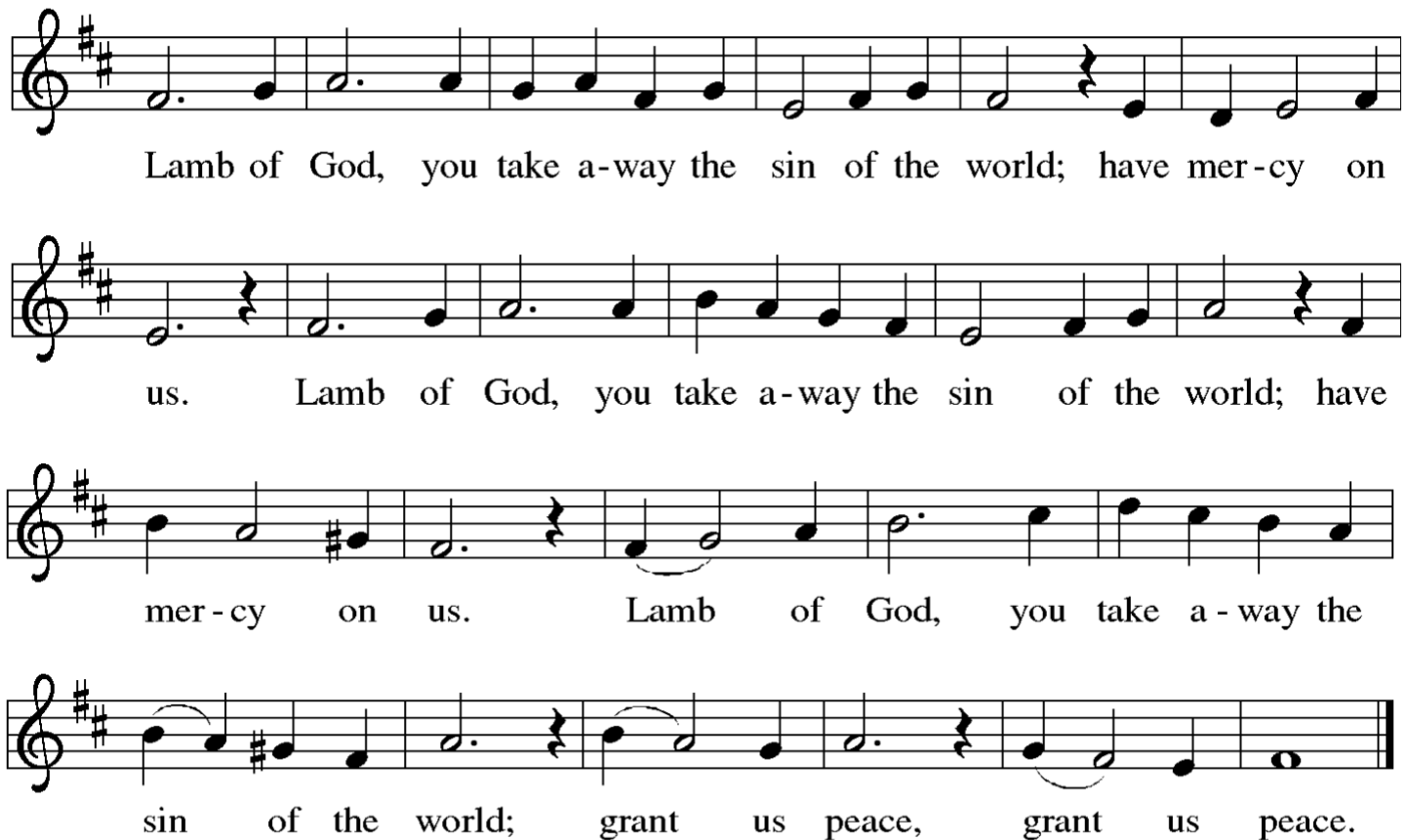
### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

Come to the table of grace.  
Receive the gift of new life.



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.

**COMMUNION HYMN** The King of Love My Shepherd is ELW502

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:**                      For All Your Saints, O Lord                      ELW 427

### **BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude**                      Toccata in F, BuxWV 157    Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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### **In our prayers today we will remember**

*Matthew Klein Karch, Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Jay Danielson, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Rachel Berkey, Michael Jordan, and Bobbee DeGordon.*

## Capital Campaign Report

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$396,278</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$387,145</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 9,133</b>

### Annual Meeting, May 18, 2025

Immediately following worship, we will process outdoors for the groundbreaking for our Eastside Entrance, Drive and Bathrooms. After the groundbreaking we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and our meeting. At the meeting we will elect new Council members and approve the 2025-26 budget.



### Impact Massillon

June 14, 2025. See Scott Larson if interested in helping out. \$15 for the T-shirt.





# Forty Days of Giving—and More!

The goal had been to have enough to sponsor one well system. But through the folders, the bake sale, and donations, the total was over \$5000, enough for two wells!

*Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.*

**We couldn't stop with buying the two water stations.**

A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make all the difference.

**We will have a Bake Sale following Worship on May 11th.** Proceeds will be used to purchase a farm through ELCA Good Gifts.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Following**  
**Worship**

**BAKE SALE**

**Let's Buy a Farm!**



# Flower Field Trip

Join Becky Johnson and many others on Tuesday, May 13, at 9 am, for a flower shopping trip.



## Music Notes

**Anderson Rambler** is a senior at the Akron School for the Arts at Firestone High School. Andy has distinguished himself in vocal competitions, earning 1st Place in the Schmidt Vocal Competition (Ohio), 1st Place in both the Classical and American Spiritual categories at Ohio NATS, and 2nd Place at Shining Star CLE. Andy is a member of Firestone's Symphonic and Madrigal Choirs, and after graduation, Andy will attend the Oberlin Conservatory of Music to pursue a degree in Vocal Performance.

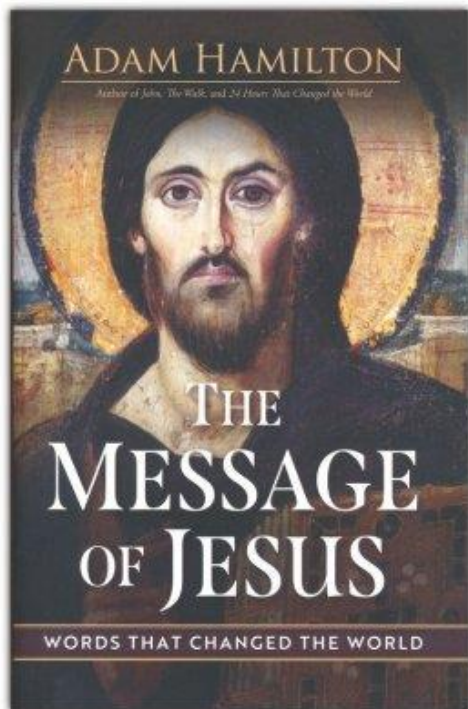
We are grateful to have **Thomas Haake** on violin today. Thomas is a 4th grader at Overlook Elementary and in his third year of Suzuki violin study with Emily Garvin. He loves music, reading, dinosaurs, Greek mythology, and soccer. He serves on his school's Student Council and Safety Patrol, and TODAY is his 10th birthday!

# Adult Sunday School Class

## Joseph and God's Grace

*"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good..."*  
(Genesis 50:20a)

Joseph, favorite son of Jacob, lived a life of challenges and privilege. By God's redeeming grace, Joseph was used to support and protect the people of God's covenant and was a righteous leader in the land of Egypt. During May, we will conclude our study in the book of Genesis and once again be reminded that grace abounds for God's glory and our lasting good. The class meets on Sundays at 11:30, top floor Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

### *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World*

By: Adam Hamilton

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



# CANTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS



Doug Beery, Director of Choruses

May 17, 2025

2:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

Admission: Free Will Offering

[CantonSymphony.org](http://CantonSymphony.org)



# New Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi:

**Network:** sound media

**Password:** Sound127

Once connected to the Wi-Fi, open the WaveCAST app and tap on **St. Paul's** to access the worship service. If you need help, please see Jim or John.

## 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.

## Community Social Media Pages

**Facebook & Instagram, Search "Massillon Lutheran Churches"**

**Facebook**

*"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon"*  
or *"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"*

## Thank you to those serving today:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Rob Pritchett</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Shane Jackson &amp; Barb Palmer</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John Liebermann, Lynn Williamson John &amp; Jennifer Stanko</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

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<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	ELW 836
Public Domain		

<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	ELW 789
Public Domain		

<b>COMMUNION HYMN</b>	The King of Love My Shepherd is	ELW502
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<b>SENDING HYMN:</b>	For All Your Saints, O Lord	ELW 427
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## Images in the Readings

To deepen our contemplation of the metaphor of Christ as *shepherd*, it is good to review the positive use that the Bible makes of the image of *sheep*. The Hebrew Scriptures remembered the past as a nomadic life of herders of sheep and goats. Sheep signified the communal life of the people, constituted a source of food and clothing, and functioned as the primary sacrificial gifts to God. The single wandering lamb from Luke's parable of the lost sheep is not the image in John 10; nor does the Bible describe sheep as being dirty; nor is a bare-footed, white-robed man a realistic depiction of the shepherd, who by the first century was thought of as lower-class and religiously unclean. Shepherds were both male and female: see Genesis 29. Christians adapted pagan religious sculpture to depict Jesus as the divine good shepherd. The early Christian movement was largely an urban phenomenon, and thus shepherding was a distant reality, readily available for the religious imagination.

That Dorcas contributed *clothes* for the needy has continued throughout history as a primary Christian charity.

The *white robe* worn by the blessed dead is recalled in contemporary albs, which mean to signify not clerical status but baptismal identity. Many artists depicted Jesus as wearing white, unlikely considering the difficulty of keeping white clean. This imagery is symbolic, as if Jesus shines with the light of God.



# Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
- 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
- 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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## For All Your Saints, O Lord



1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,  
2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,  
3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,  
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new  
5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.  
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.  
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.  
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt.

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893