

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# *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 in honor of Mary Jane & Bill Montgomery's Anniversary by their daughters.

### **Introduction**

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 11:1-18**

*Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life.*

#### **Psalm 148**

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

#### **Revelation 21:1-6**

*New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem.*

#### **John 13:31-35**

*Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.*

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

*Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Michael Jordan, and Bobbee DeGordon.*

**Today's Hymns from the Tower**

**Prelude:**

At Dawn  
Bell Choir

Church Carillon  
Sandra Eithun (b. 1963)

**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**

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

ELW 424

## GREETING

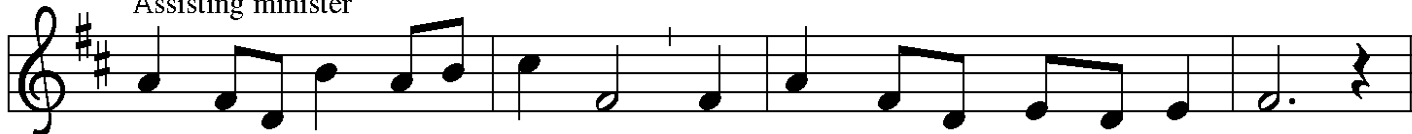
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**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.



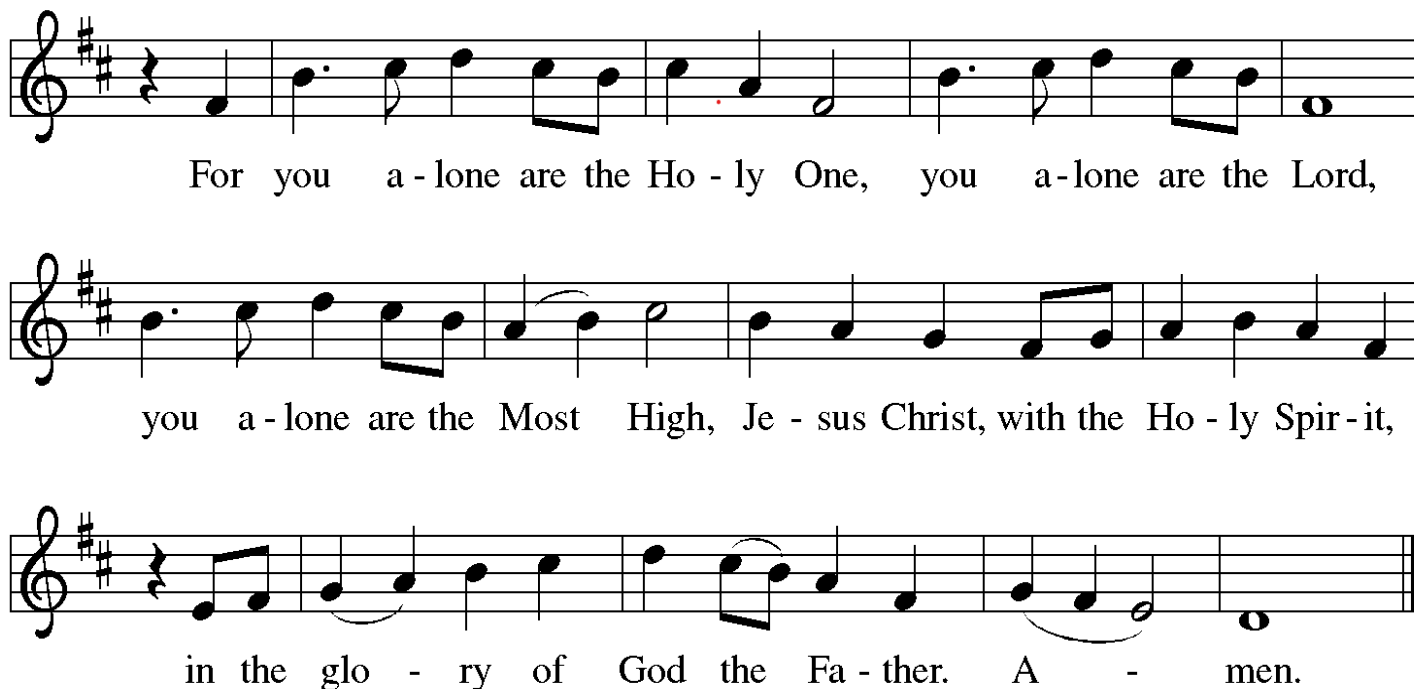
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to

heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6**

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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 13:31-35

The Gospel according to John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of our Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**Rev. Mark Kreemer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      Where Charity and Love Prevail      ELW 359

## 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

### Be Still My Soul Bell Choir

arr. Eithun

*Be still, my soul! Your God does undertake to guide the future as he has the past. Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know His voice, who ruled them while he lived below.*

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.

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.... 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, 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.

## 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.



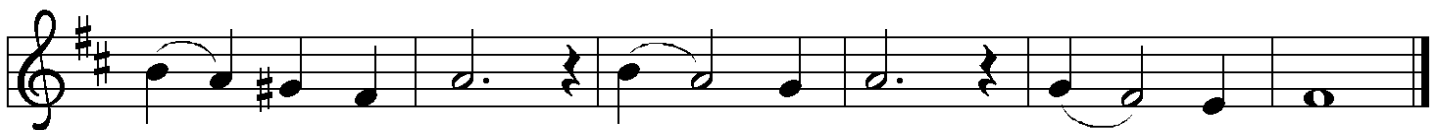
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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**    Where There Is Charity and Love, There Is God  
Norah Duncan IV (b. 1952)

**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:**                      As Saints of Old                      ELW 695

**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**                      Praeludium in C                      Johann Krebs (1713-1780)

## **Annual Meeting, May 18, 2025**

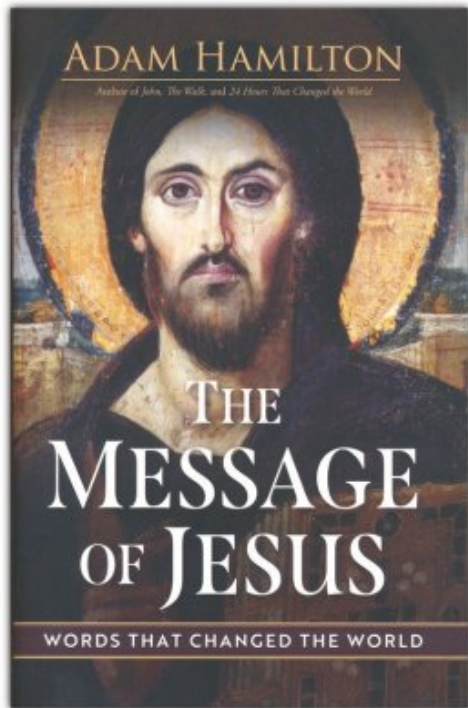
Immediately following worship today, we will process outdoors for the groundbreaking for our Eastside Entrance, Drive, and Bathrooms. After the groundbreaking we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and our meeting. At the meeting we will electing new Council members and approving the 2025-26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

# 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.

## Capital Campaign Report

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$396,278</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$397,148</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 00.00</b>

### Impact Massillon

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

### 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”***

## **Veterans Invited to Flag Day**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00 pm**

**Freedom Farm**

**12943 Kimmens RD SW Massillon, Ohio**

**RSVP to 330-418-9192**

## **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>Scott Larson</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Craig Maurer</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers &amp; Greg Klein</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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**GATHERING HYMN**    Ye Watchers and Ye Holy One    ELW 424

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**HYMN OF THE DAY**    Where Charity and Love Prevail    ELW 359

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**SENDING HYMN:**    As Saints of Old    ELW 695

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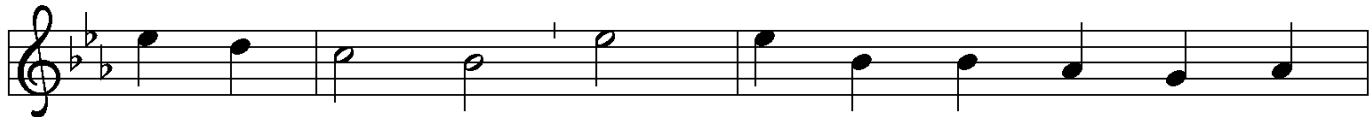
# Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright  
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more  
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye  
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - apts, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:  
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:  
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!  
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,  
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyr's  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:  
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:  
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:  
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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# Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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## As Saints of Old



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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