

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 20th, 2025

*Martha
welcomed
Jesus into
her home*

LUKE 10:38



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 water bottle and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both are 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 Sandi Bennett & Patty Long in memory of their parents Jean & Howard Murphy.

The **Throne flowers** were given by Jennifer Stanko in honor of Harry Morgan's birthday.

Introduction

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 18:1-10a

The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the LORD.

Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (*Ps. 15:1*)

Colossians 1:15-28

Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation.

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part.

The Westminster Strike Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Prelude on Blessed Assurance Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise **ELW 834**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your

servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear
the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

The holy gospel according to Luke the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

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 into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Embrace the Cross
Ellie Manes, soloist

John G. Elliott

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

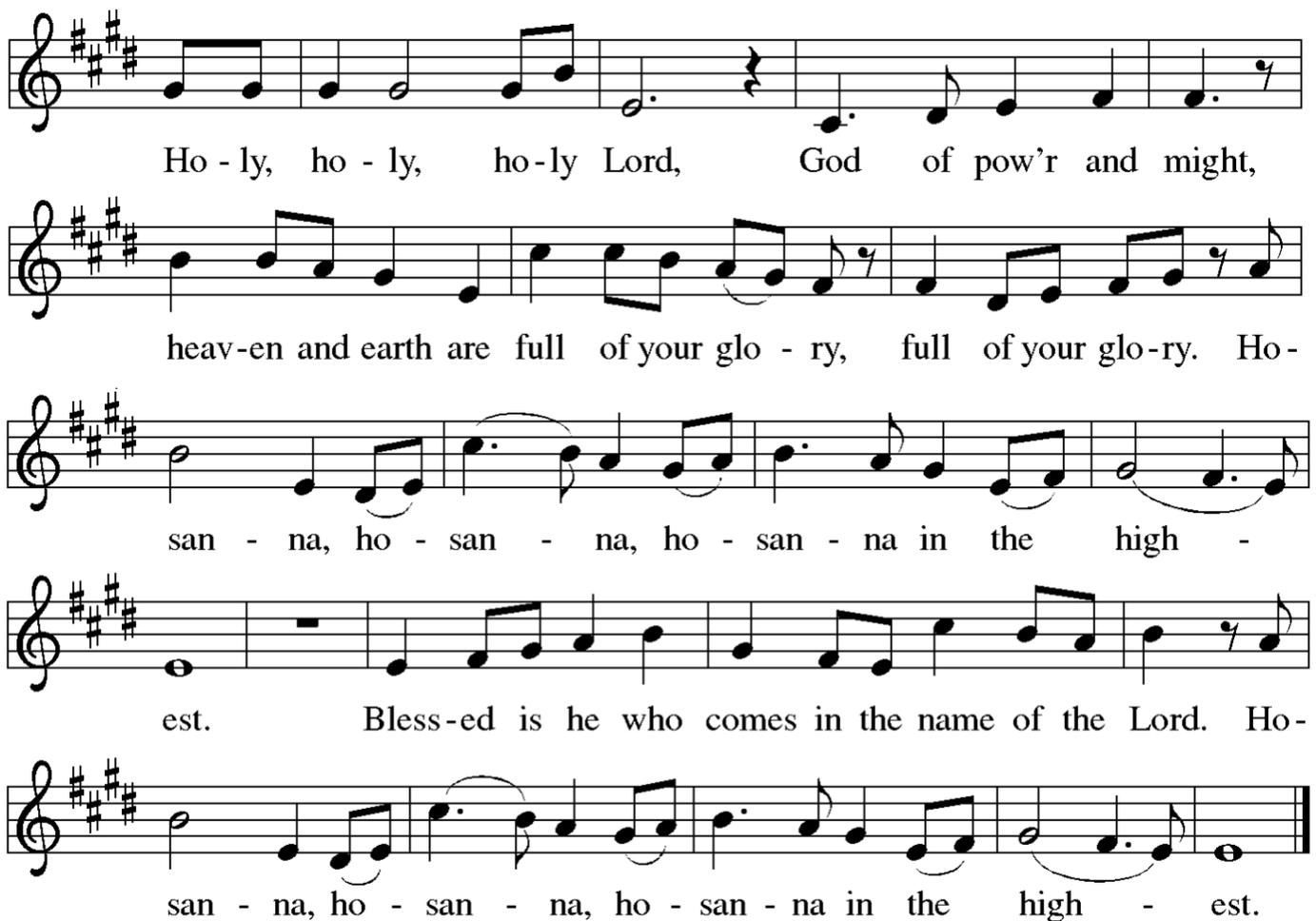
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

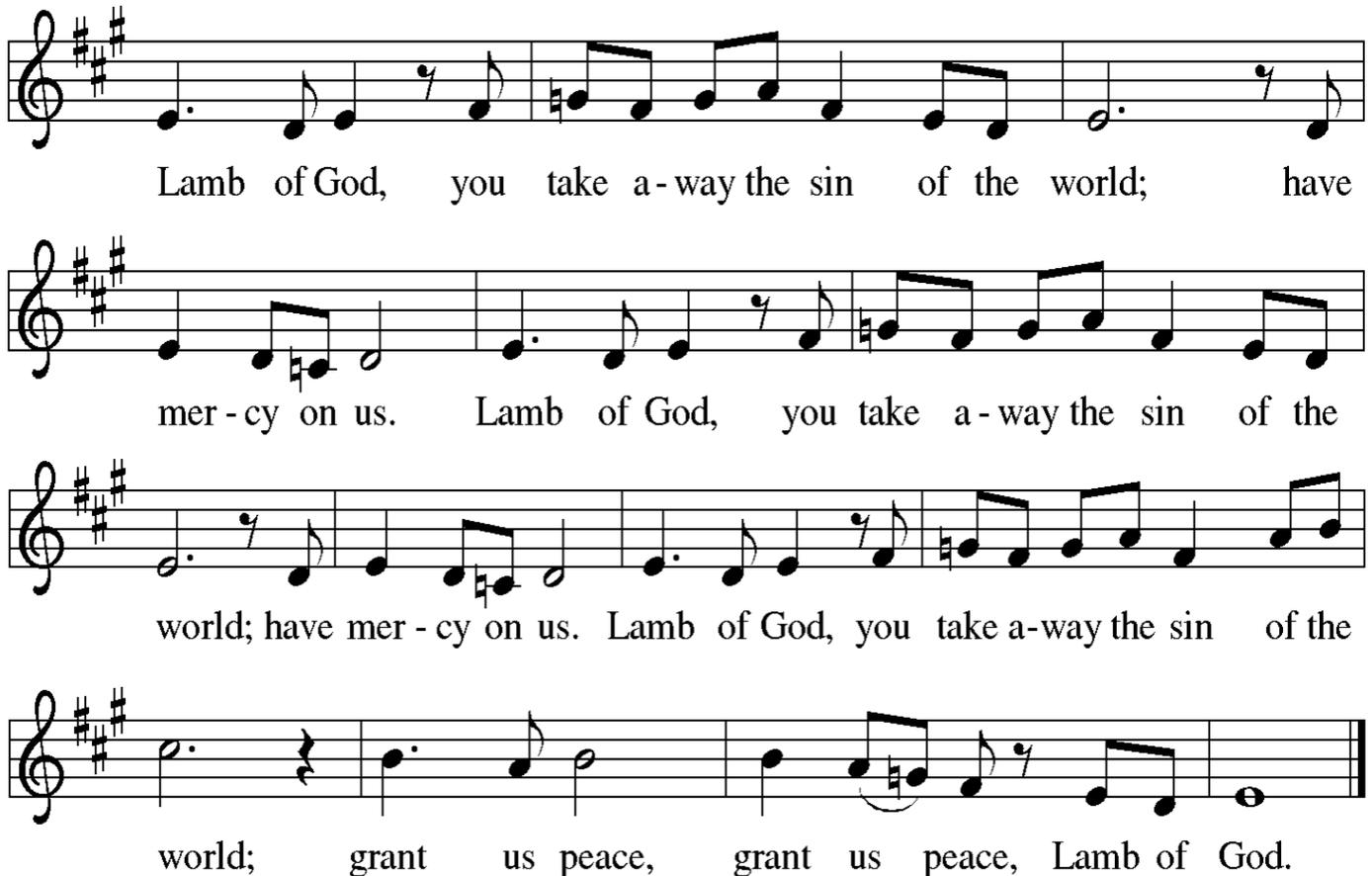
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

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.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW 820

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sonata II: Allegro maestoso e vivace

Felix Mendelssohn

Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Music Notes:

Ellie Manes is a musician and composer from the Akron/Canton area. She studied under Dr. Larry Snider at the University of Akron and graduated in 2021. During her time there, she won the Tuesday Musical scholarship competition, taught in Jamaica through the JAFSP, and published a paper on steelpan repertoire and pedagogy. Since then, she has been composing and performing for various religious services and community outreach programs as well as teaching lessons privately at the Aurora School of Music. She spends her free time hiking, reading, and taking care of her cats, Pancake, Franklin, and Levi.

Upcoming Special Music:

July 27: Stephanie Blaha, french horn
August 3: Dr. Christopher Blaha, tuba
August 10: Ariel Karas, violin
August 17: Camarada Brass Quintet
August 24: St. Paul's Chancel Choir
August 31: Loren Veigel

In our prayers today we will remember

Kelly Wright, Olivia Harrington, Darlene Lewis, Cindy Nash, Michael Jordan, Paul Daily, Rick Thesis, Jerry Sturtz, Judy Hall, Richard Green, and Randy Balder.

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

Capital Campaign Report

Construction is well underway on our new entrance and restrooms, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our members that has made this possible—**the project is fully funded!**

However, this is not the end of our building and maintenance needs. Two important projects still lie ahead: addressing the window wells around the base of the Parish Hall and upgrading the heating and cooling system in that same space. While we do not yet have formal estimates for these projects, we know they will come at a significant cost.

That’s why we are asking everyone to continue supporting the Capital Campaign. Your continued giving will ensure that we can maintain a safe, welcoming, and comfortable environment for all who come through our doors.

We hope to have estimates for the next phase of work by the end of the summer and will keep you informed as those plans develop. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing faithfulness and generosity.

Adult Sunday School Class

Summer Break

Beginning June 8, the adult Sunday School class and the Thursday Morning Bible Study will take some time away from meeting and will reconvene with another series of lessons on September 8. God's blessings to you for a delightful summer.

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.



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*”

School Supplies Needed:

Elementary K-3

Crayola Crayons, 24pack
Crayola Markers
Elmer’s Glue Bottle & Glue Sticks
Pencils #2
Large Pink Erasers
Fiskar Scissors – Rounded Tip

Folders with 2 pockets and prongs
Spiral Notebook (wide ruled)
Composition Notebooks (wide ruled)
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Pencil Sharpener

Intermediate 4-6

#2 yellow, wooden pencils
Scissors
Crayons, 24 pack
Eraser (Pink)
Elmer’s Glue & Glue Sticks

Colored Pencils
Plastic folders with pockets and prongs
Composition Notebooks
Notebook Paper
Spiral Notebook

Jr. High 7-8

2 pencils
Pens
Highlighters
Colored Pencils
Elmer glue stick

Scissors
Composition Notebooks
Ruler
Plastic folders with pockets and prongs
Notebook Paper

High School 9-12

#2 pencils
Box of Markers
Notebook Paper (College Ruled)
2-Pocket Folders

Single Subject Spiral Notebooks
Box of Colored Pencils
Composition Notebooks
Ruler

**Please return items to the church by July 27th.
Thank you.**

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Karl Kalk
Lector	Kathryn Myers
Greeter	Craig Maurer
Communion Assistants	Shane Jackson & Barb Palmer
Sacristan	Patty Long
Ushers	Karl Kalk, Craig Maurer, Jack & Marilyn Norton
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise **ELW 834**

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HYMN OF THE DAY Jesus, the Very Thought of You **ELW 754**

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COMMUNION Blessed Assurance **ELW 638**

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SENDING HYMN O Savior, Precious Savior **ELW 820**

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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878

Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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

O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929