

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 27th, 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 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 Kathy & Bryan Corban in memory of Patty & John Kindig & Don Corban.

Introduction

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Psalm 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (*Ps. 138:8*)

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith.

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches the disciples to pray.

The Westminster Strike Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Du bist die Ruh
Stephanie Blaha, French horn

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

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

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

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

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” ²⁷ Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰ Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” ³¹ He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³² Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and

authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

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 11:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

REMEMBERING JANET LOU BRUNNER

Let us Pray

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Amen

A reading from the Psalms

I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

My help comes | from the LORD,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

Behold, the keep- | er of Israel

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

the sun will not strike | you by day,

nor the | moon by night.

The LORD will preserve you | from all evil

and will | keep your life.

The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,

from this time forth for- | evermore. (*Psalms 121*)

Prayer

O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially Janet Brunner. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. As we remember Janet strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where

suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Romance

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Mrs. Blaha, French horn

OFFERTORY



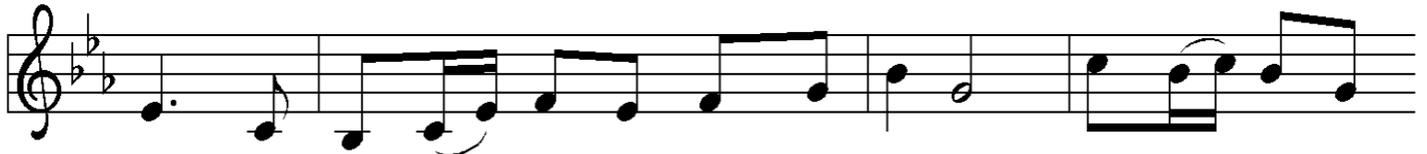
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

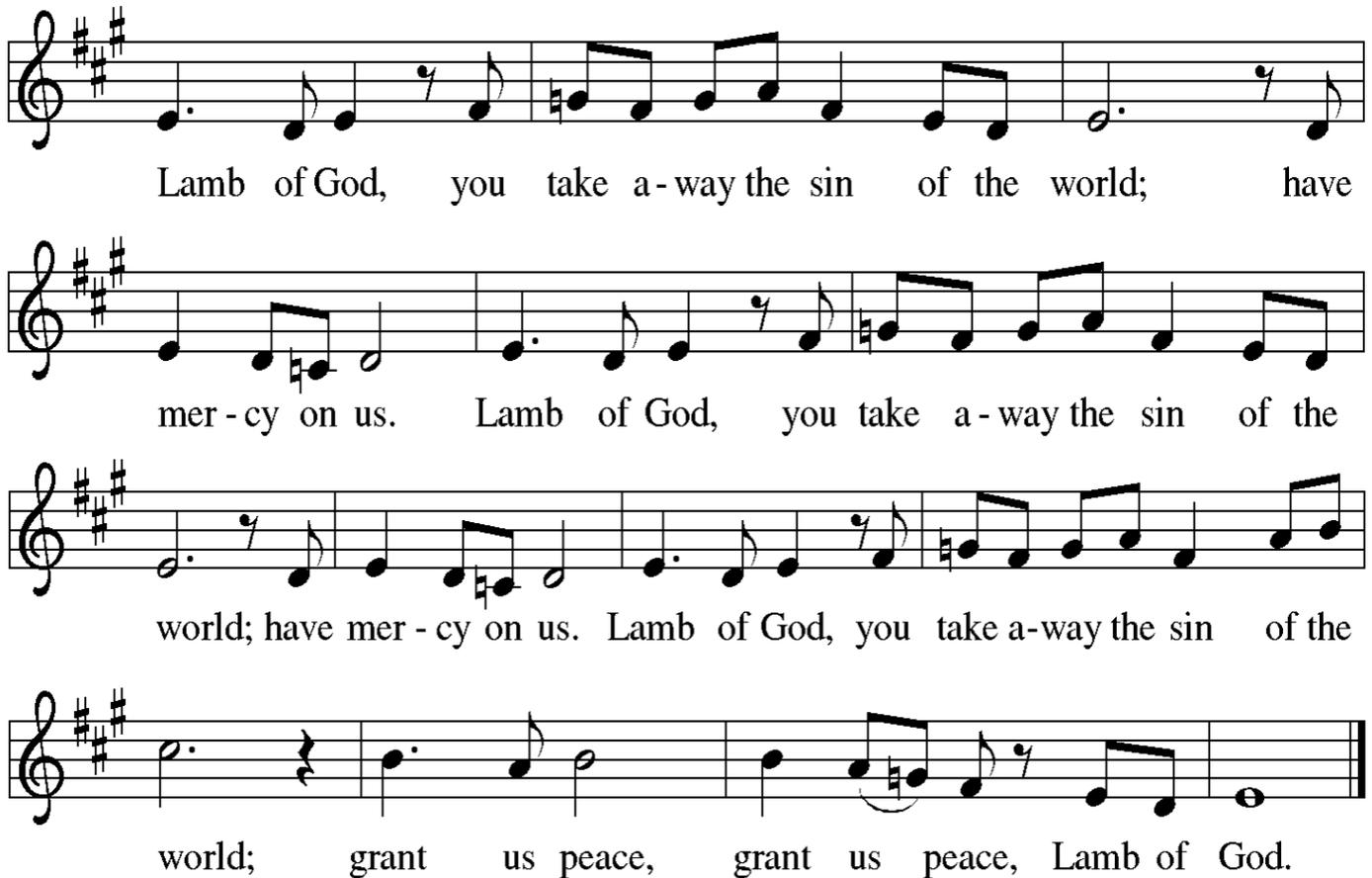
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 Sweet Hour of Prayer Robert Powell (1932-2025)

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 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing **ELW 544**

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 No. 3 in a minor: Allegro Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)
Mrs. Blaha, French horn

In our prayers today we will remember

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

Music Notes:

Stephanie Blaha was appointed Principal Horn of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in 2018. She is also Assistant Principal Horn of the Grant Park Orchestra since 2009, spending her summers in Chicago, Illinois. She held the position of Third Horn with the Winston-Salem Symphony from 2009-2014 and Fourth Horn with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 2005-2009. Stephanie has also performed with the Arizona Musicfest Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Originally from the Chicago area, she is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she was a student of Gail Williams and William Barnewitz. Stephanie lives with her husband Chris and their daughter Lizzie, in Wadsworth, Ohio, where she teaches elementary music in the Wadsworth City Schools.

Upcoming Special Music:

August 3: Dr. Christopher Blaha, tuba
August 10: Ariel Karas, violin
August 17: Camarata Brass Quintet
August 24: St. Paul's Chancel Choir
August 31: Loren Veigel

Recital

Before heading off to college, bass-baritone Andy Rambler will be giving a special recital here at St. Paul's on August 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. All are invited.

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.

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”*

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.



Thank you to those serving today:

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

Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923**

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

GATHERING HYMN How Great Thou Art **ELW 856**
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-734490. All rights reserved

HYMN OF THE DAY What a Friend We Have In Jesus **ELW 742**
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-734490. All rights reserved

SENDING HYMN Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing **ELW 544**
Public Domain

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,
Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

Text © Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.