

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 10th, 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 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 Jennifer & Craig Maurer in memory of Ruth Nelson. The **Throne flowers** were given by Pat Myers and family in honor of Jim's 90th birthday.

Introduction

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 15:1-6

God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai.

Psalm 33:12-22

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God.

Luke 12:32-40

God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have

The Westminster Strike
Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Panis Angelicus
Ariel Clayton Karas, violin

César Franck (1822-1890)

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

The God of Abraham Praise
verses 1-4

ELW 831

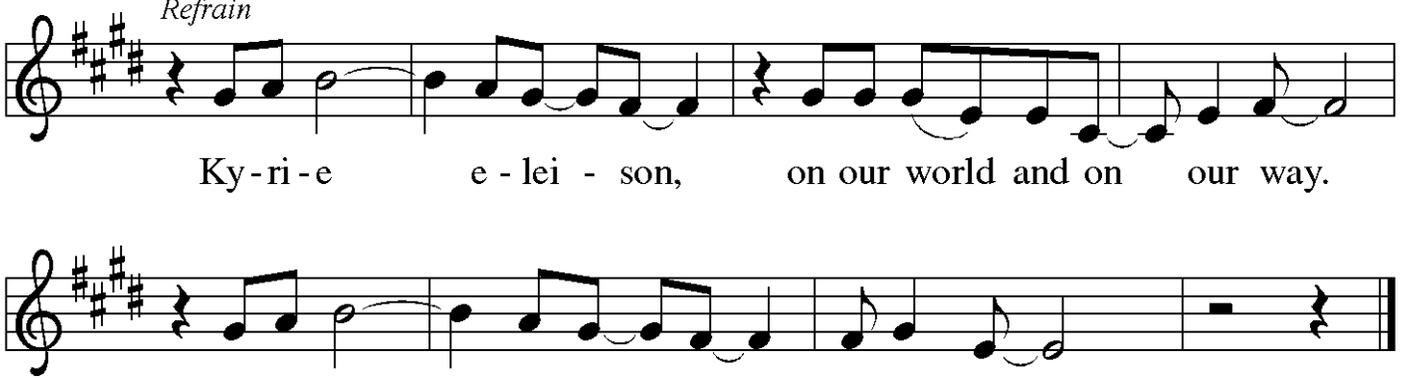
GREETING

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 God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you
wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my

house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22



Let your lov - ing - kind - ness be up - on us,
as we place our hope in you.

- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God¹ is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to¹ be God's heritage!
- ¹³ **The LORD looks¹ down from heaven,
and sees all¹ humankind.**
- ¹⁴ God sits firmly en-¹ throned and watches
all who dwell¹ on the earth.
- ¹⁵ **God fashions¹ all their hearts
and observes¹ all their deeds. R**
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by¹ their great strength.
- ¹⁷ **The horse gives vain¹ hope for victory;
despite its great strength it¹ cannot save.**
- ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear¹ you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your¹ steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ **to deliver their¹ lives from death,
and to keep them alive in¹ time of famine. R**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you. **R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY O Master, Let Me Walk with You ELW 818

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church
and pray for the needs of the world.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Rêverie
Ms. Karas, violin

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

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.

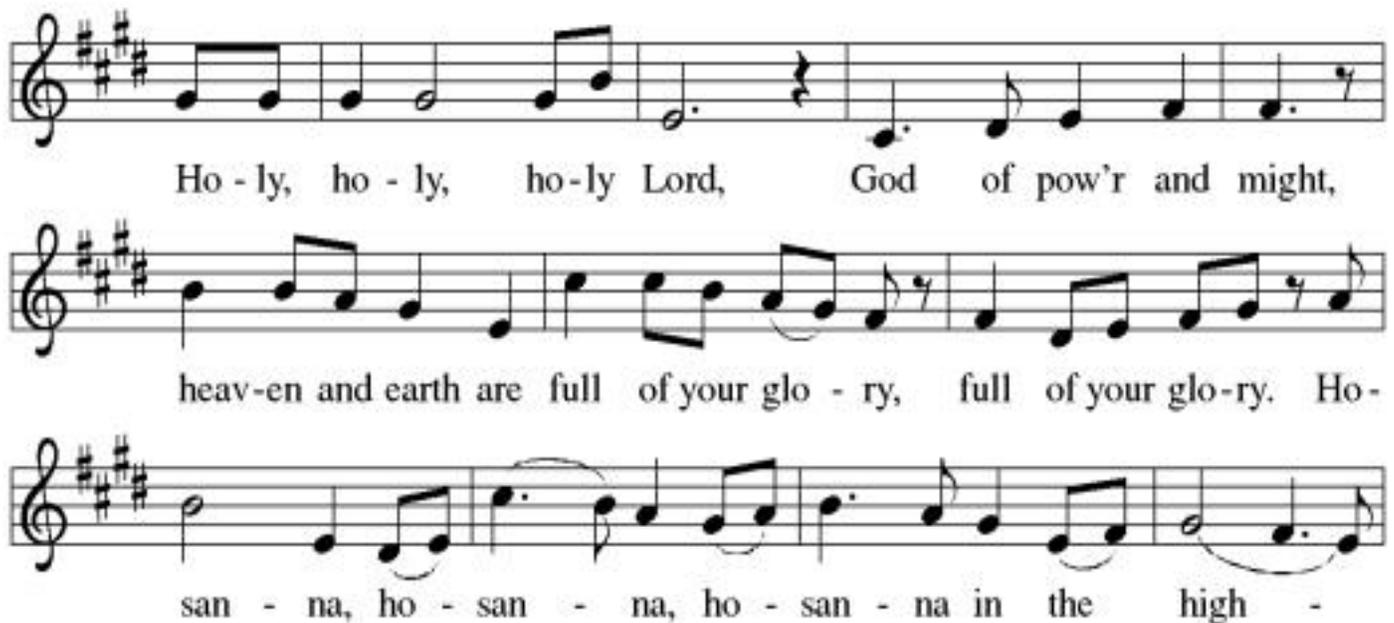
Lift up your hearts.

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:



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second staff contains: "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-". The third staff contains: "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -".

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.

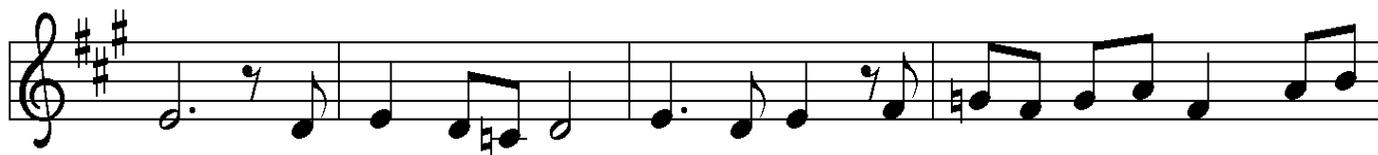
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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

Amazing Grace
Ms. Karas, violin

arr. Duane Funderburk (b. 1954)

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 God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632

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. 6 in F Major, Op. 1, No. 12: IV. Allegro
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Ms. Karas, violin

In our prayers today we will remember

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

Choir Returns

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 10! All are welcome!

Music Notes:

Violinist Ariel Clayton Karas manages and performs more than 250 events annually throughout northeast Ohio as founder and director of OPUS 216, director of Classical Revolution Cleveland, and Musician in Residence at the Cleveland Clinic. Founded in 2012, OPUS 216 collaborates frequently with renowned organizations, including the Cleveland Museum of Art, American Greetings, Piano Cleveland, Cleveland Ballet, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and with performers for the Tri-C Jazz Fest, among others.

As director of Classical Revolution Cleveland, Ms. Clayton Karas curates dozens of free monthly performances each year in non-traditional venues throughout Northeast Ohio. Their concert series, JOIN, brings classical music to underserved audiences, including crisis shelters, juvenile detention facilities, and social service organizations. Ms. Clayton Karas holds a BM in violin performance and a MM in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Upcoming Special Music:

August 10: Ariel Karas, violin

August 17: Camarata Brass Quintet

August 24: St. Paul's Chancel Choir

August 31: Loren Veigel

Dwight Butler, baritone

September 7: Carol Butler, Richard Evert, Heidi Hall

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"*

Pastor Mark's 25th Ordination Anniversary

We will be celebrating Pastor's **25th anniversary of ordination on August 24**. We hope everyone can join in this happy milestone event. A catered dinner will follow the church service, and all are invited to celebrate with Pastor Mark and his family. A signup sheet will be available so that we have some idea of the number of people attending.

Church Picnic Sunday September 14

Mark your calendar to join us for our annual picnic following our 10:00 AM service. We will be serving BBQ Ribs and Chicken.

Please bring a covered dish. If your **last name** starts with

A-F - bring a dessert

G-N - bring a salad or appetizer

O-Z - bring side dish

We will have special music from **Tom Judge** who plays in the band – *Digital Natives*. Tom is the son-in-law of Mary Ann and Russ Poling. Tom recently played in the Battle of the Bands at the Fan Fest for the Hall of Fame. There will be games on the lawn so plan to join in the fun.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Veronica Kreemer
Lector	Larry & Kim Oberlin
Greeter	Dick & Robin Cordes
Communion Assistants	Brady Rupp & Sue Reid
Sacristan	Lynda Klein
Ushers	Sue Ambrosic, Becky Johnson, Patty Long, & Sue Reid
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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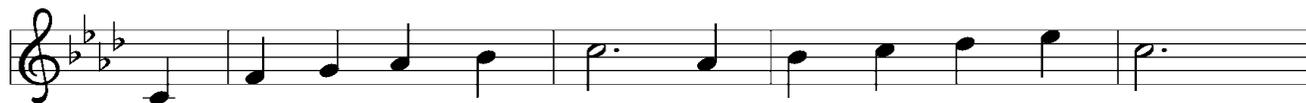
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GATHERING HYMN The God of Abraham Praise **ELW 831**
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HYMN OF THE DAY O Master, Let Me Walk With You **ELW 818**
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SENDING HYMN O God, Our Help In Ages Past **ELW 632**
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The God of Abraham Praise



- 1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
- 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
- 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
- 4 Your prom - ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



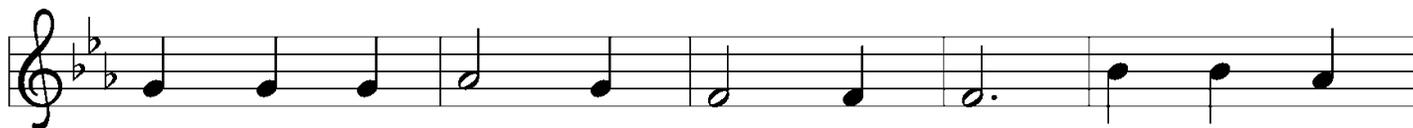
I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

- 5 Though nature's strength decay,
 and earth and hell withstand,
 to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
 at your command.
 The wat'ry deep I pass,
 with Jesus in my view,
 and through the howling wilderness
 my way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see,
 with peace and plenty blest;
 a land of sacred liberty
 and endless rest.
 There milk and honey flow,
 and oil and wine abound,
 and trees of life forever grow
 with mercy crowned.
- 7 Before the great Three-One
 the saints exulting stand
 and tell the wonders God has done
 through all their land.
 The list'ning spheres attend
 and swell the growing fame
 and sing the songs which never end,
 the wondrous name.
- 8 The whole triumphant host
 give thanks to God on high.
 “Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
 they ever cry.
 Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
 I join the heav'nly lays:
 to you be glory, might divine,
 and endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.
 Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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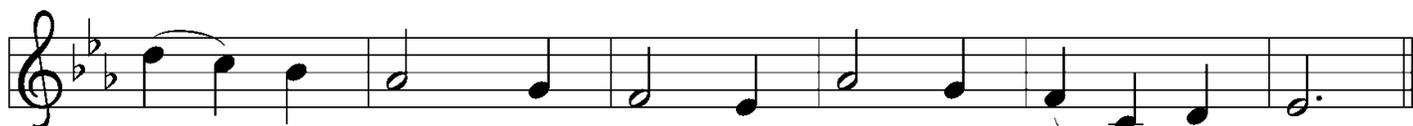
O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



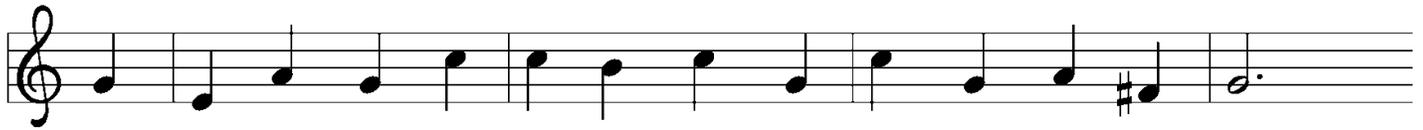
paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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