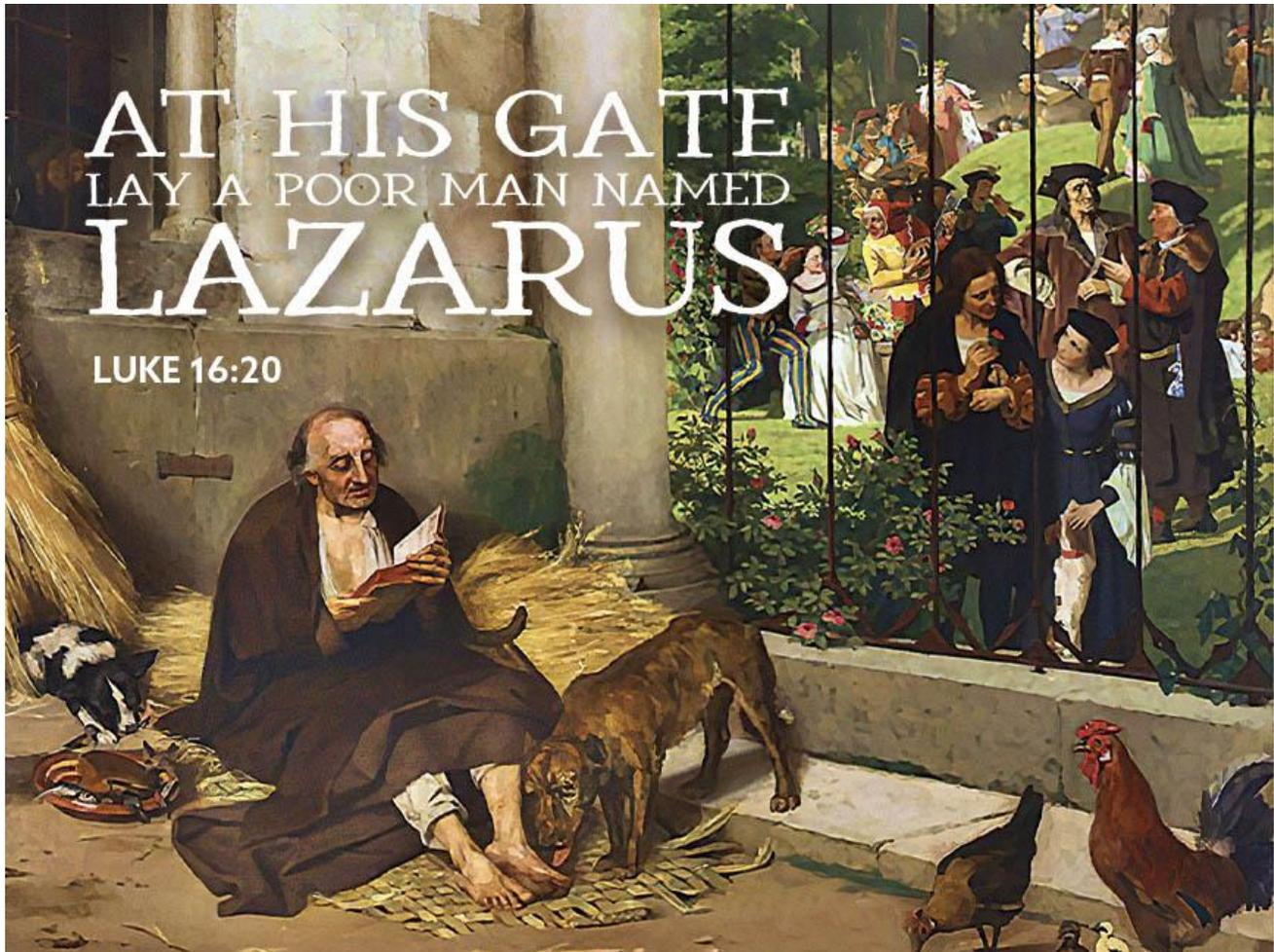


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 28th, 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 Carol Stoner in memory of Ron Stoner's birthday. The **Throne Flowers** were given by M.E. & Joe Hepler in honor of their parents.

Introduction

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Readings and Psalm

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy.

Psalm 146

The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (*Ps. 146:7*)

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice?

Luke 16:19-31

Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man.

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Prelude in C

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

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.

Refrain



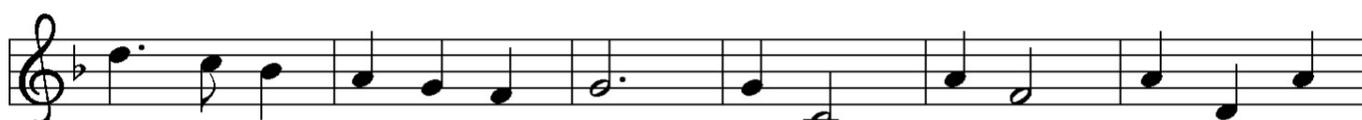
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
 and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
 and lounge on their couches
 and eat lambs from the flock
 and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
 and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
 and anoint themselves with the finest oils
 but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
 and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:]¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life ELW 719
Vs. 1-4

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY: God's Work, Our Hands arr. Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel. God's work, our feet: traveling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your Gospel. God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel. God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.

Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

OFFERTORY



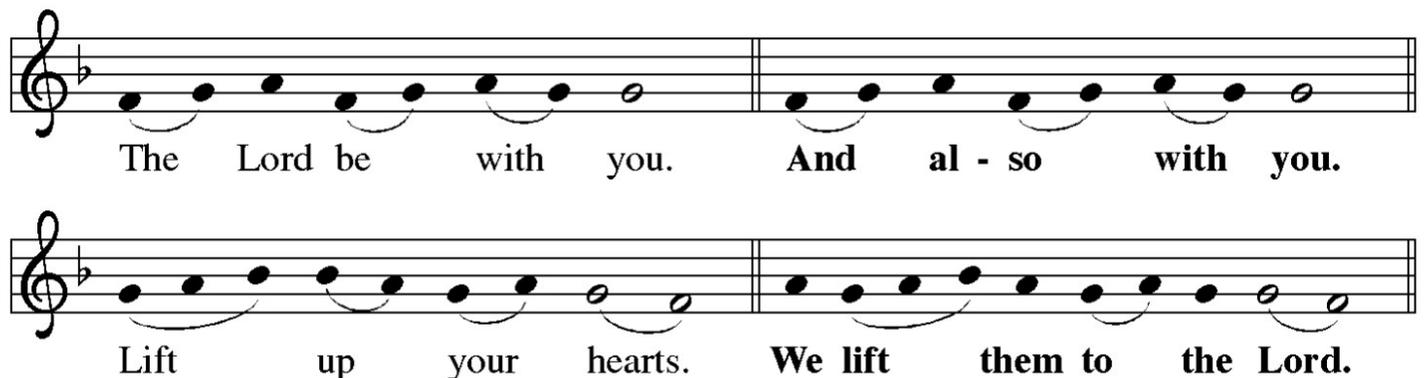
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al-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-er and might,

heav-en 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. 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
 Come to this meal of mercy

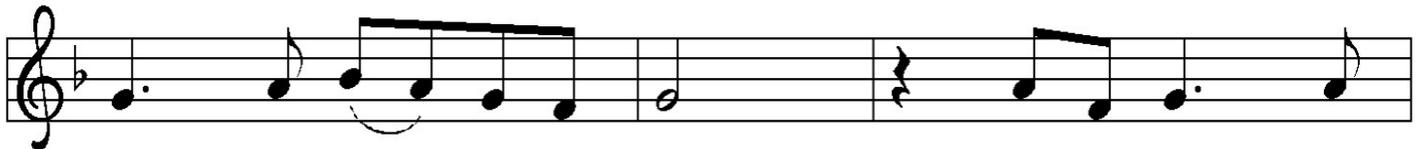
COMMUNION SONG



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.

Communion:

We Come To the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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.

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Commonwealth Is God's Commandment insert

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Trumpet Tune in A Major Michael McCabe (b. 1941)

In our prayers today we will remember

Nancy Lint, Tom Fry, Carol Sargent, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Matthew Cottle, Arthur Barrett, Olivia Harrington, Darlene Lewis, Cindy Nash, Michael Jordan, Paul Daily, Rick Theiss, Richard Green, and Kathy Watts.

Music Notes

Chancel Choir

Choir rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays at 7 pm! All are welcome!

Handbell Choir

Save the dates! Rehearsals are **October 1, 8, & 15** in preparation to play in worship on **October 19** and **November 12, 19, & December 3** in preparation to play in worship on **December 7** AND participate in the **Candlelight Walk (December 7, 5-7 PM)**. Please let Abby know if you plan to ring so that she can have music ready for you!

Adult Sunday School

11:30 am

Who is God the Holy Spirit?

“The Spirit will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13a)

The Holy Spirit may be the most neglected and misunderstood person of the Holy Trinity. God the Father and God the Son seem more relatable and easier to embrace. The lessons for September and October will focus on the person and work of the Holy Spirit and the privilege we have as believers to access this “power from on high.” Please join us following the Sunday worship service in the Parish Hall, top floor, as we begin this interesting series of lessons. We typically start at 11:30 and conclude shortly past noon. An elevator is available for easy access. Hope to see you there!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

10:00 am

Everywhere Is Jerusalem: Experiencing the Holy Then and Now
By James Howell

In *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*, James Howell takes you on a spiritual pilgrimage to significant places in the ongoing story of the Christian faith. You'll go from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the Jordan River to Assisi, and from the Sea of Galilee to Montgomery, Alabama. Along the way, you'll discover the profound connections between biblical stories and the places they happened.

Part travelogue, part Bible study, this book will take you on a spiritual journey to the places that are most important in our faith, and you'll discover that the most important place of all is the place where you are, right now.

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"*

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

With joy and gratitude, we celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms—made possible by your faithful generosity. What a gift it is to see these improvements already serving our community!

Yet our work of caring for God's house is not finished. Three pressing needs lie ahead: a \$125,000 replacement of the Parish Hall heating and cooling system, repairs to the Parish Hall window wells, and fixing a boiler leak in the Education Building.

Through your continued giving, we can preserve this sacred space as a place of safety, welcome, and comfort for all who come through our doors. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God's grace for generations to come.

Thank you to those serving today:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Mark Kreemer |
| Director of Music | Dr. Abigail Haake |
| Assisting Minister | Kathryn Myers |
| Lector | Heidi Hall |
| Greeter | Marilyn Norton |
| Communion Assistants | Dwight Butler & Jim Johnson |
| Sacristan | Sandi Bennett |
| Ushers | Dave Dourm, Phil Halco Russ Poling, & Tracie Schmolt |
| Soundboard | Jim Johnson |
| Video/Live-Stream | John Stanko |

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GATHERING HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705
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HYMN OF THE DAY Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life ELW 719
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Communion: We Come To the Hungry Feast ELW 479
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SENDING HYMN Commonwealth Is God's Commandment insert
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God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

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We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever

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Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



1 Com - mon - wealth is God's com - mand - ment; com - mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar - ing lav - ish gifts and bless - ings, love that not one mite with - holds,
3 Gen - ders, rac - es, tribes, and na - tions, hear the Ho - ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel - come an - gels un - a - ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang - ers: God has sheep of man - y folds.
bid - ding all to work to - geth - er, bridg - ing lives and breach - ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan - ti, pax, sha - lom, mas - la - ha: com - mon good is ho - ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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