

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 11th, 2026



*Everything is ready;
come to the
wedding banquet*

MATTHEW 22:4

WELCOME

To our **Church Family**

We're Glad You're Here!



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our 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 Hannum Family in memory of our sweet Jeremy & Gma & Gpa Mitch

Introduction

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 25:1-9

The feast of victory

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

Philippians 4:1-9

Rejoice in the Lord always

Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Sweet Hour of Prayer arr. Sandra Eithun (b. 1963)
Handbell Choir

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies ELW 553

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



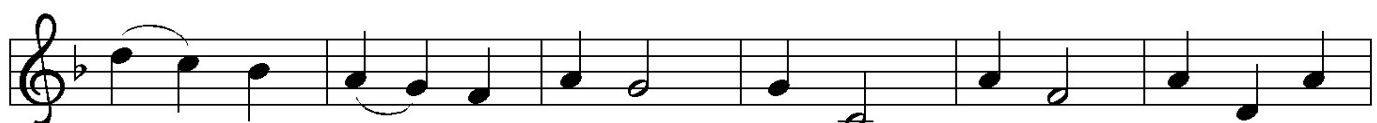
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,

the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;

the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here

without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Kathryn Myers

HYMN OF THE DAY

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

After each petition the following response is given:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM God Is So Good/Jesus Loves Me- arr. Valerie W. Stephenson (b. 1943)
Handbell Choir

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

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places 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.**

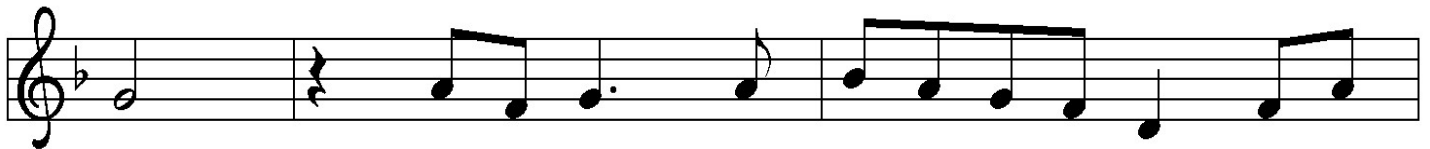
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

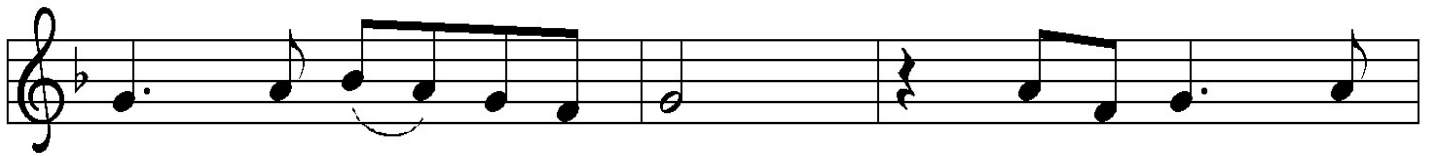
COMMUNION SONG



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: Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele- Max Reger (1873-1916)

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.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

ELW 873

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Rondeau

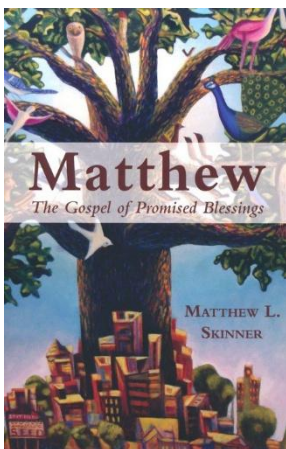
Josef Hector Fiocco (1703-1741)

In our prayers today we will remember

Greg Karlin, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Riley Hostatler, John, Lorili, Ema, Mason, Jan Hawley, Lynn Williamson, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, Gary Maurer, Richard Green, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Judy Hall, Karen Daily, Sandra Jelen, Jimmy Southard, Mark Gergley, Becky Johnson, Pam Neil.

Let us know you are here.

Please sign the St. Paul's Friendship Register at the end of your pew.



Thursday Morning Bible Study - October 15th @ 10:00 am
Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings

By: *Matthew L. Skinner*

The Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus and his message as full of tender compassion and urgent warning. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus.

Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

Adult Sunday School

The Prophet Jeremiah
...they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water.
(Jeremiah 2:13b)



Adult Sunday School

...they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water.
(Jeremiah 2:13b)

Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah was given an important but very difficult assignment to accomplish - to speak truthfully about the failures of the people of Judah and to remind them of the One in whom they ought to put their trust, the Lord God of all creation. The book is filled with warnings, wisdom, and encouragement for living faithfully today. Please join us as we gather at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, top floor Parish Hall for Bible study and fellowship. An elevator is available for easy access. (Note, there will be no class on October 4th to make time for an informational meeting regarding the education building.)

Adult Choir Rehearsals Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am All are welcome!

Join us at 8:30 AM in the choir room to make a joyful noise. All are welcome!



Handbell Choir

The Handbell choir will rehearse on **11/11, 11/18,** and **12/2** in preparation to ring on **December 6** in worship **AND** for the **Candlelight Walk**.

We meet at 6 pm. All are welcome, but please, please let Abby know if you plan to ring so she can prepare music for you!

Organ Repair Donations

If you wish to make donations specifically for organ repair, please mark your envelopes as such. If you give electronically, see Dan Farrar for details.



Pumpkin Rolls

Today is the last day to order!

Sue Ambrosic @ 330.844.7648

Barb Palmer @ 220.244.1602

Order Due Date: Oct. 11th

Pick up Date: Oct. 25th



Trick or Treat

Youth and Parish Ed Committee will be hosting Trick or Treat again on Sunday, October 25th, from 3 to 5pm (Massillon City's Trick or Treat Time).

If you can donate a bag of candy by October 18th, it would be much appreciated. We kindly ask that you donate candy safe for small children.

Candy can be dropped off in the office.

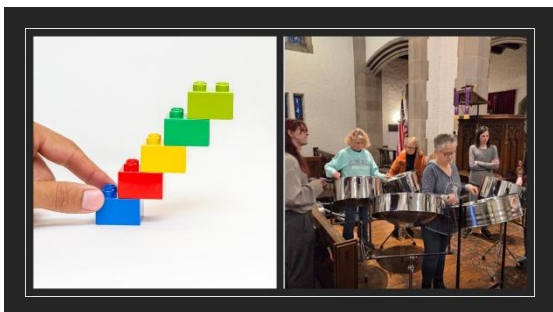
Church Directory

The Church Directory is now available on request. A printed copy will cost \$2.25 An electronic copy (PDF) will be free of charge

You can request either or both formats by contacting the church office:

330.832.7409 or officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

No copies will be issued to non-members.



St. Paul's Steelband will start back up **October 14th** with weekly classes at **6pm**. The focus will be on learning. If you've never walked near a steel drum, and want to learn, we have something for you! Please join us!



Join us on October 16th, 2026 at 7PM

An Evening with the Singers

The University Singers are the Ohio University School of Music's flagship mixed choral ensemble, made up of many of the university's most talented and dedicated singers.

The Northwest Singers are an advanced, auditioned mixed voice ensemble based out of

Northwest High School in Canal Fulton, OH, located just minutes away from Massillon. Made up of 10th to 12th-grade students, this premiere choral group focuses on rigorous vocal training, curricular performances, and community mentorship.

Return for a second concert on Sunday, October 18th at 4 PM for the Canton Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet. Composers will include Malcolm Arnold, Anton Reicha, W. A. Mozart, and more!



Scan the QR code to join our Cathedral Concert Series email list!

For more concert series information, visit our website:

<https://stpaulsmassillon.org/concert-series>

CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. YOUR FREEWILL OFFERING IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.



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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 Area 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

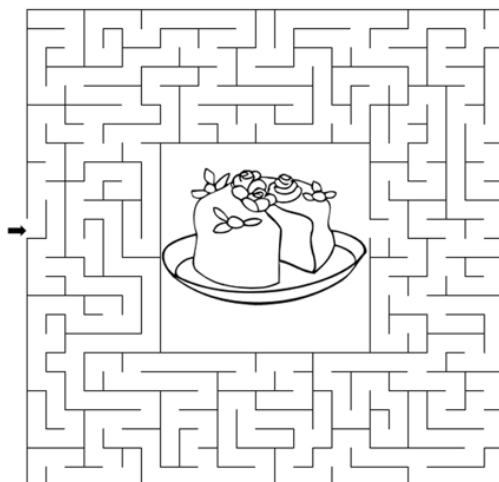
Children’s Activity Bulletins

Crayons and Children’s Activity Bulletins are available at the side entrance. These are a fun way to spread today’s Gospel to our younger ones.

Invite Someone



You are invited to the wedding banquet!
Can you find your way to the wedding cake?



Children’s Activity Bulletin

October 11th, 2026

The Parable of the Wedding

Matthew 22:1-14

Word Search Puzzle

R	U	D	N	Q	C	O	R	N	E	R	S	E	L	C
Z	N	E	I	K	P	M	P	G	U	E	S	T	S	V
N	X	D	O	N	O	A	E	Z	G	T	P	N	Z	S
O	Q	P	N	D	N	L	R	C	B	J	D	E	P	E
B	P	Z	G	W	T	E	T	A	O	X	V	B	U	R
X	A	N	R	T	I	E	R	U	B	M	S	A	G	V
U	T	A	R	E	R	W	E	K	E	M	E	R	A	

Christmas Food Baskets

Welfare and Social Committee will collect nonperishable food and miscellaneous items for our Community Meal families for Christmas. The items will be distributed at our Community Meal on Friday, December 11th.

We will begin collecting in October. Please place your donations in the box located at the side entrance of the church.



If you have questions, please contact Barb Palmer at 330.244.1602.

- Oct. 18th – Tea and coffee
- Oct. 28th – Peanut butter and jelly
- Nov. 1st – Canned soups and pork & beans
- Nov. 8th – Cereal and mixes (cake, brownies, muffins)
- Nov. 15th – Canned fruits & vegetables
- Nov. 22nd – Spaghetti sauce, pasta, instant potatoes
- Nov. 29th – Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper)
- Dec. 6th – Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush

Thank you for your generosity!
Barb Palmer

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Dave Stoner
Lector	Patty Long
Greeters	Greg & Lynda Klein
Communion Assistants	Shane Jackson & Jackie Pritchett
Sacristan	Mary Ann Poling
Ushers	Jack & Marsha Fortune Shane Jackson, John Lieberman
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies ELW 553
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HYMN OF THE DAY As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522
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SENDING HYMN Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ELW 873
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Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

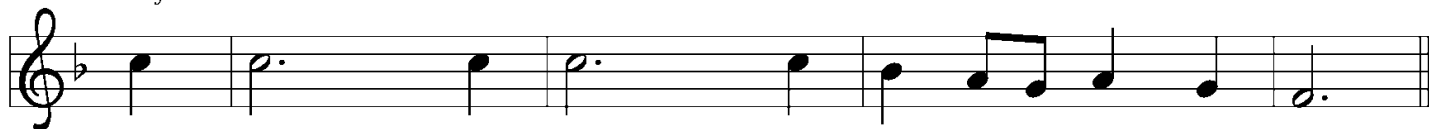


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.

Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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