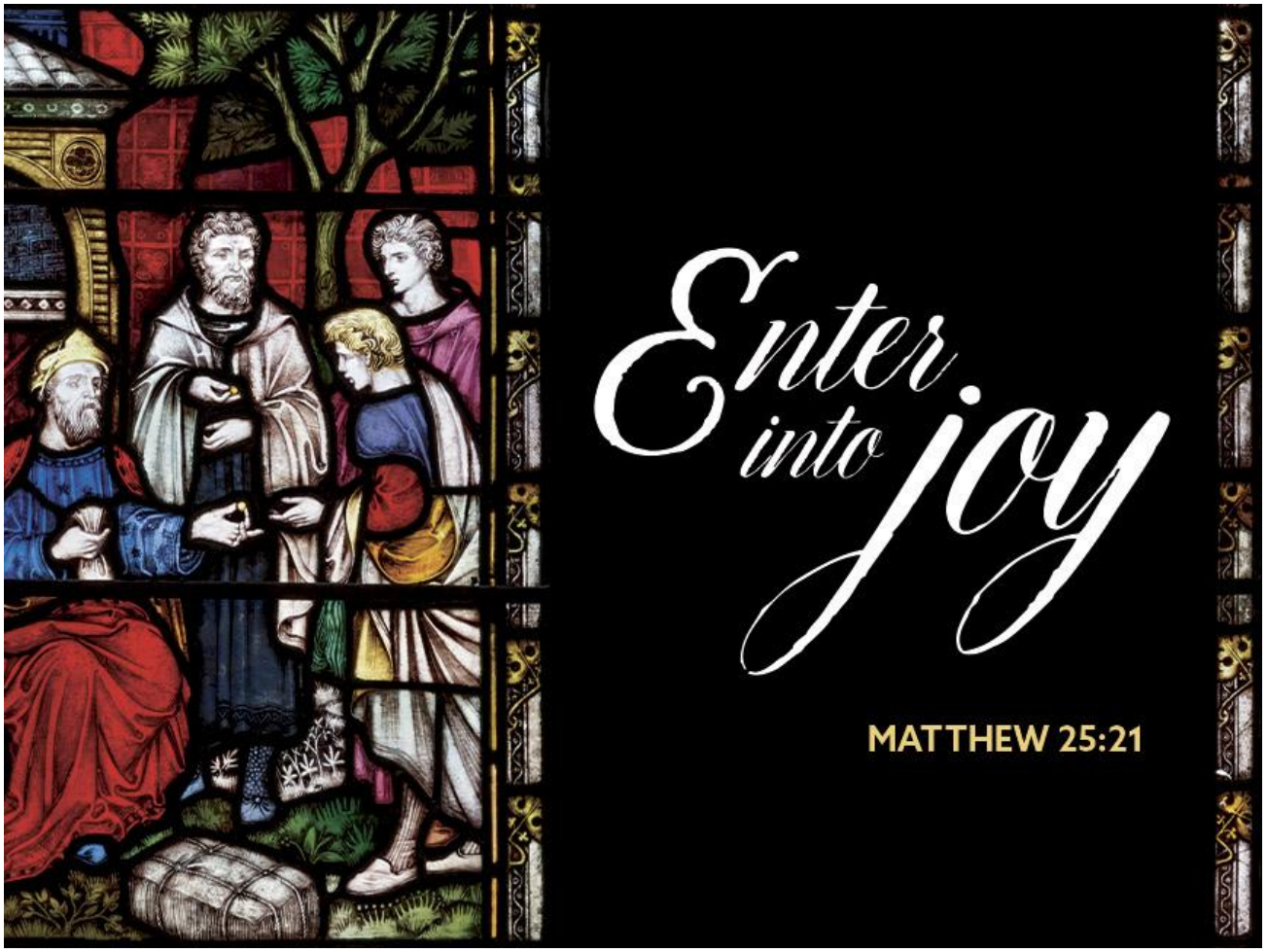
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 15th, 2026



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 Susan White in honor of Paul White & Joy Parkinson.
The **Throne flowers** are given by Sue Reid in memory of Magda Reiter

Introduction

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Readings and Psalm

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
The day of the LORD
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *(Ps. 90:12)*
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Be alert for the day of the Lord
Matthew 25:14-30
The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

The Westminster Strike
Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Song of Peace Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

A Litany for Veterans

We pause to remember those who go to war in our name.

We give thanks for courage, for love of country, for those who work to bring peace to our world.

Remind us, Oh God, that the goal of any war need be justice and peace.

On this day, we pause in worship to give thanks to God for veterans.

And seek to bind up the wounds of those who served.

Enable us to know how to comfort, how to bind up their wounds.

And remind us, Dear God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran – all know the cost of war.

Challenge us to love the warrior but hate the cost of war.

And we pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

Let us pray.
And we give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain with us as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name. Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified. Remind us that war is a failure by us to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace. We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures. May we truly be Your people and be makers of peace. **AMEN.**

GATHERING HYMN Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory **ELW 890**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities

and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of
the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and
security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a
pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are
not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of
light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us
not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who
sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for
a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one
another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned
his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and
made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made
two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received
the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master
said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master
said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,
'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and
gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your

talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Rev Mark Kreemer**

HYMN OF THE DAY God Whose Giving Knows No Ending **Bulletin Pg. 20**

CREED .

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition the following response is given:
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

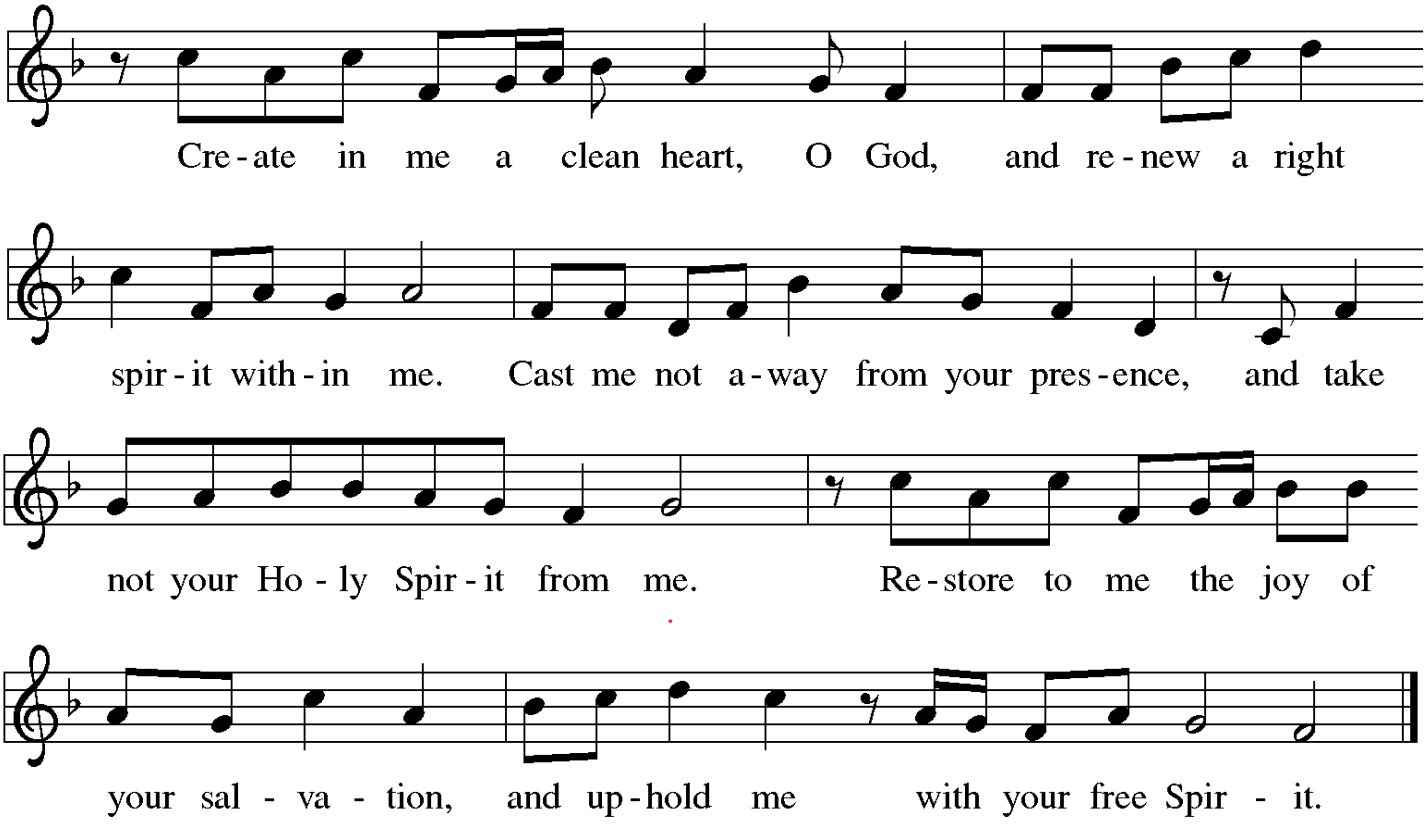
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM Day By Day- arr. Robert Leaf (1936-2005)
Chancel Choir

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest. Day by day, I know you will provide me strength
to serve and wisdom to obey; I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the paths

I struggle day by day. I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace. Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand. Savior, with your presence here to guide me, II will reach at last the promised land.

OFFERTORY

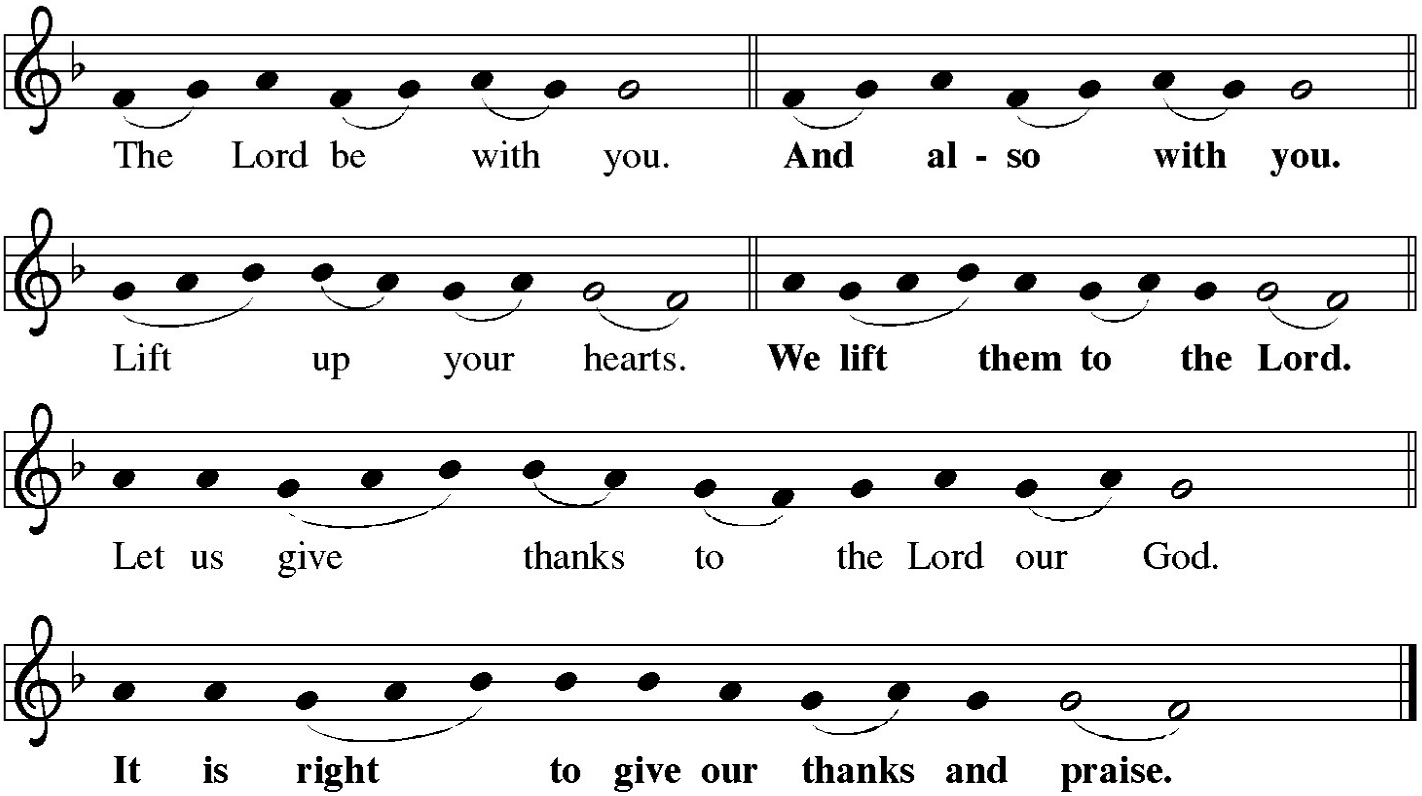


OFFERING PRAYER

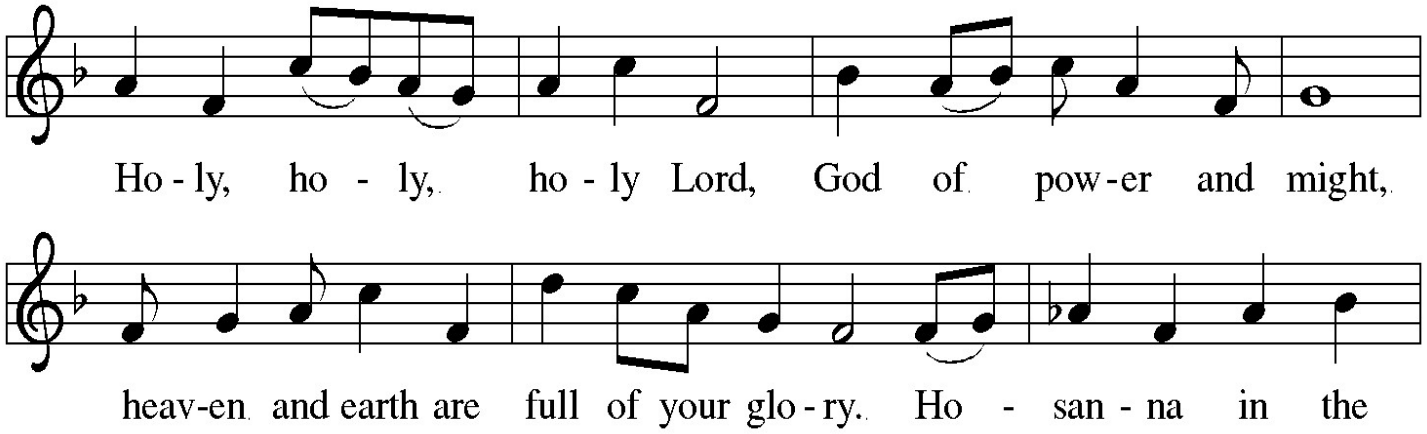
Let us Pray

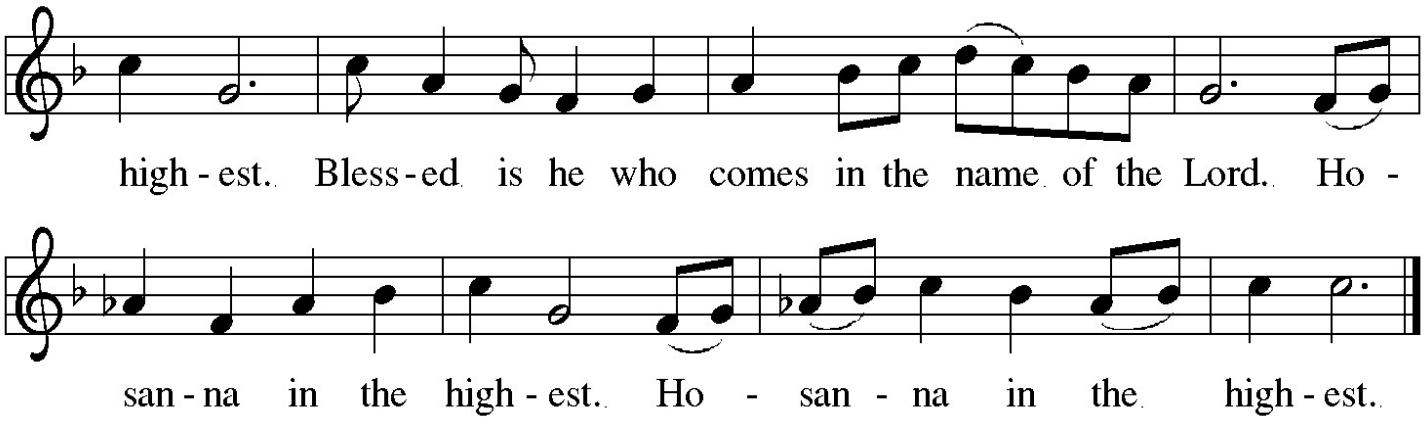
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

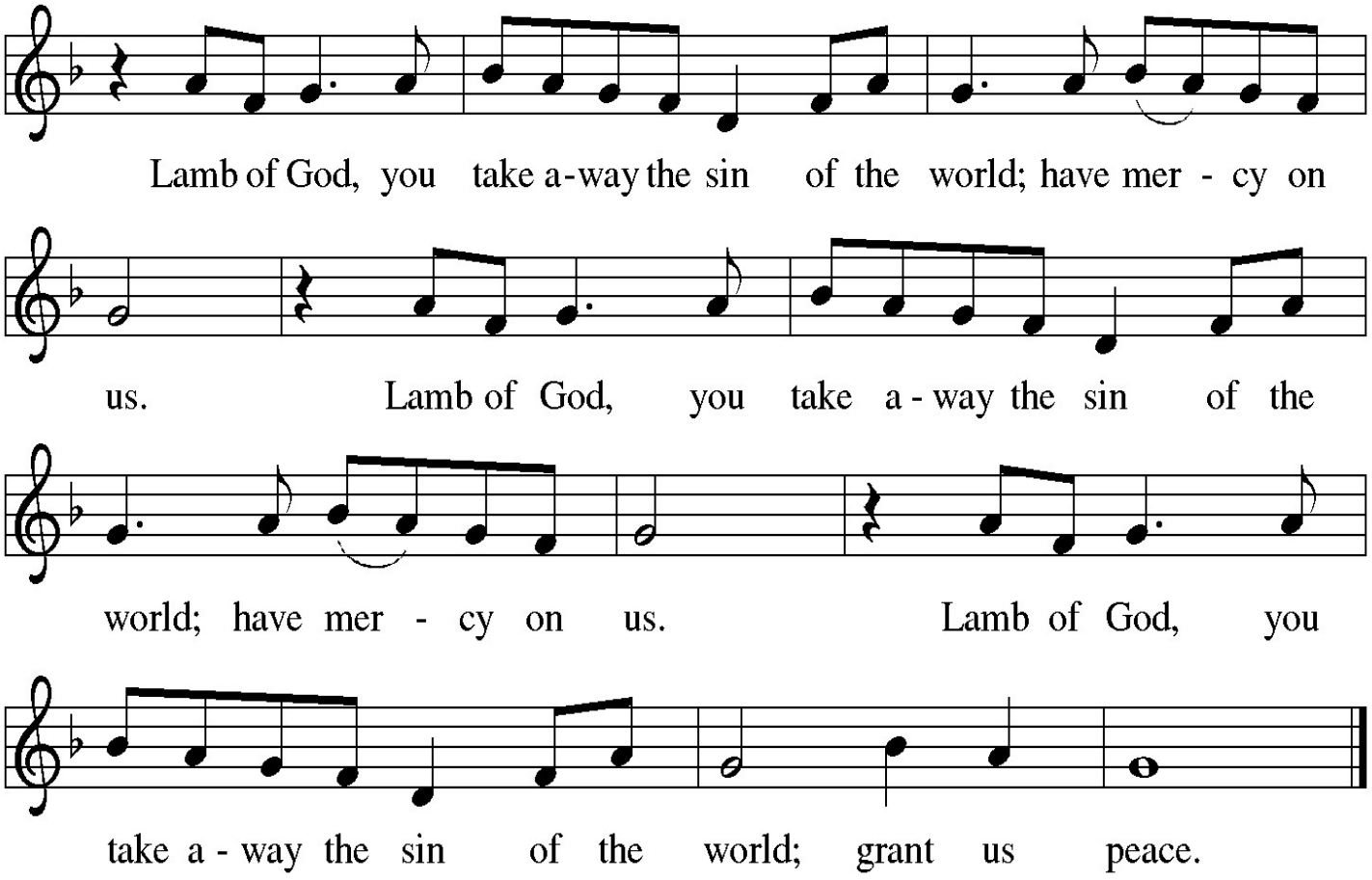
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION SONG



Communion: What A Friend We Have in Jesus ELW 742

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.
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever**. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Lord Of Glory, You Have Brought Us **ELW 707**

BLESSING

The holy Trinity,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude Trio on The Ash Grove Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

In our prayers today we will remember
Patrica Kandel, Ken Mifflin, Jane Lanning, Mary Ellen Gresser, Greg Karlin, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Riley Hostatler, Jan Hawley, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, Gary Maurer, Richard Green, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Judy Hall, Sandra Jelen, Jimmy Southard, Mark Gergley, Pam Neil, Chad Byington.



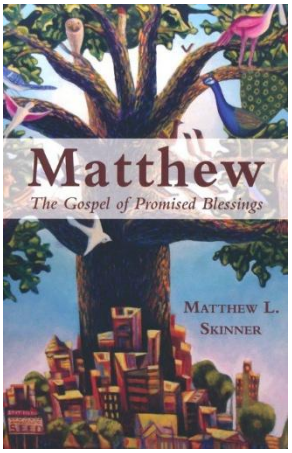
Let us know you are here.

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



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!





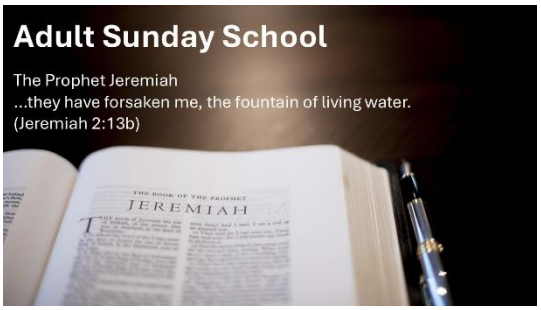
Thursday Morning Bible Study @ 10:00 am

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. **** There will be no Bible Study 11.19.26***



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.

Handbell Choir



The Handbell choir will rehearsals on **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!



God's Kitchen Angels Could Use Your Help!

After baking several thousand cookies, God's Kitchen Angels must bag them all for distribution. They could really use some help. If you're able to stop in on **November 19th @ Noon** - it would be much appreciated.

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.





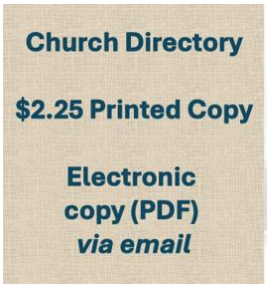
Scan the QR code to join our Cathedral Concert Series email list!

For more concert series information, visit our website:
https://stpaulsmassillon.org/concert-series

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

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.





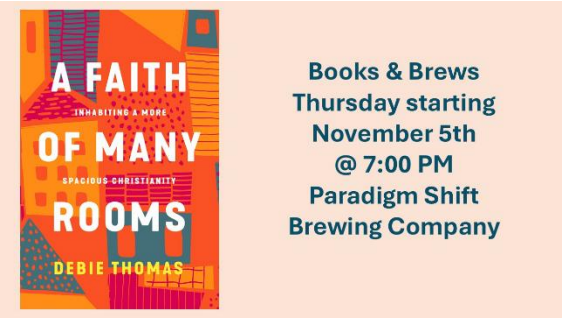
St. Paul's Steelband

Join us for weekly classes at **6pm**. The focus is on learning. If you've never walked near a steel drum, and want to learn, we have something for you!
Please join us on any Wednesday!
**** On 11/18, and 12/2, we will hold class at 5 pm due to bell choir practice.*



***TODAY IS THE LAST DAY **

FOR COOKIE & POINSETTIA ORDERS



Books & Brews

Grab a copy of *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity by Debie Thomas* and meet us for Books & Brews on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at Paradigm Shift Brewing Company.
Led by Pastor Tina Crog, this book discussion is one of our connection efforts for the Massillon Lutheran Cohort. In the book, author Debie Thomas reflects on faith, doubt, belonging, and what it means to discover a Christianity spacious enough to make room for our questions, our differences, and our whole selves. Through personal stories and theological reflection, she invites readers to consider what it might look like to inhabit faith with greater authenticity and joy.
Come ready for good conversation, good questions, and good food!

Red Cross Blood Drive



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give Blood.

Our next blood drive is **Mon., Nov 16th from noon to 6pm**.

Schedule an appointment at https://www.redcrossblood.org/



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 Area Churches"***

Facebook, Search ***"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon"***

Or ***"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's***

Assisted Hearing Devices Available

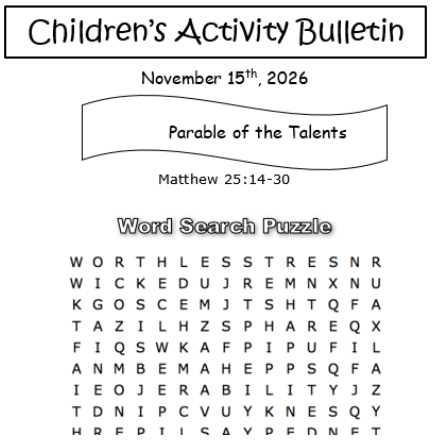
Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.

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.



Scholarship Application/Renewal



It's time to apply for/renew scholarship applications for the 2027 spring semester.

All renewal applications are sent via email to the recipients from the previous semester.

New applicants can request an application **starting November 1st** by emailing the church office at OfficeAdmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

DEADLINE to be considered for the scholarship is **December 1st, 2026**. Scholarship recipients will then be voted upon by the Scholarship Committee. Recipients will be notified, and rewards will be sent via postal mail to the address on the application within the month of December.



Our homebound members' Christmas gift bags will be available for delivery December 10th.

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. Thank you for your generosity!

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



Help Decorate the Church

Join us Saturday morning, **November 28th at 9 am** to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. Many hands make little work, and we are typically done before 11 am. You'll be done in plenty of time to watch "the game."

Angel Tree Gift Tags



- Angel Tree gift tags will soon be available in Portico
- The tags will have suggested gift ideas for children and families in need this Christmas Season.
- Please return your *unwrapped* gift to the church by December 10th, you may also drop them at the Salvation Army.

Parents and children will then get to pick a gift for their loved one and wrap it themselves.
****If you have a specific gift for a specific child, please see Barb Palmer.**

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	**Rev. Mark Kreemer**
Director of Music	**Dr. Abigail Haake**
Assisting Minister	**Kathryn Myers**
Lector	**Scott Larson**
Greeters	**Sue Ambrosic**
Communion Assistants	**Jackie & Rob Pritchett**
Sacristan	**Becky Johnson**
Ushers	**Chuck Gesen, Dick Longworth, Chuck Richards & Mike Skelly**
Acolytes	**Scott Larson, Thomas Haake**
Soundboard	**Jim Johnson**
Video/Live-Stream	**John Stanko**

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GATHERING HYMN Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory **ELW 890**
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HYMN OF THE DAY God Whose Giving Knows No Ending **Bulletin Pg. 20**
Public Domain

Communion: What A Friend We Have in Jesus **ELW 742**
Public Domain

SENDING HYMN Lord Of Glory, You Have Brought Us **ELW 707**
Public Domain

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

ELW 890



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent

ELW 742

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 - rows 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

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

ELW 707



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887