St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 8th, 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 Carol Stoner in honor of her Son Todd's birthday

Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Readings and Psalms
Amos 5:18-24
Let justice roll down like waters
Psalm 70
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. *(Ps. 70:5)*
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
The promise of the resurrection
Matthew 25:1-13
The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

The Westminster Strike
Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Minuet In Classical Style- C. Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960)

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand **ELW 441**

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
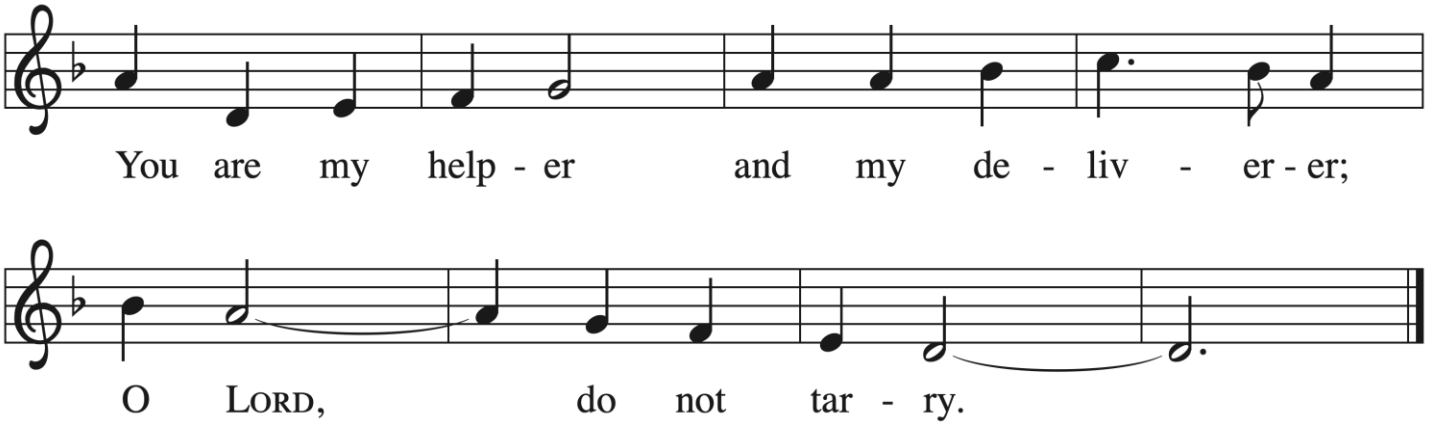
Let us pray.
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 70



1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R
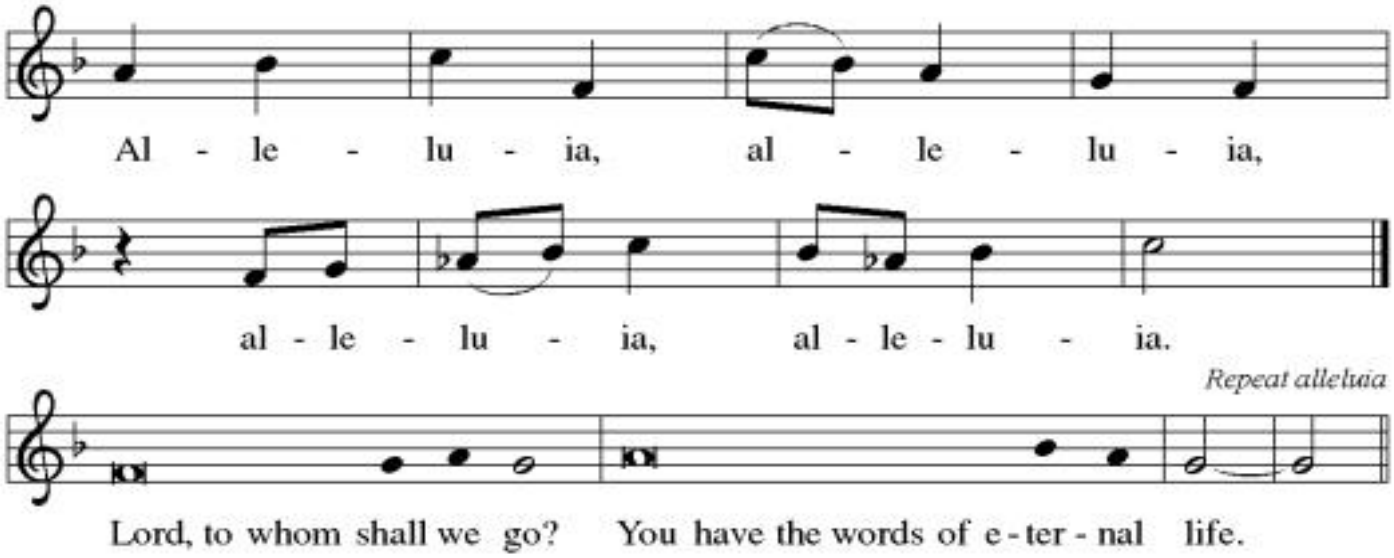
[3] Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

SERMON **Rev Mark Kreemer**

HYMN OF THE DAY Blessed Assurance **ELW 638**

BATISM OF CHARLOTTE BARRICK

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.**

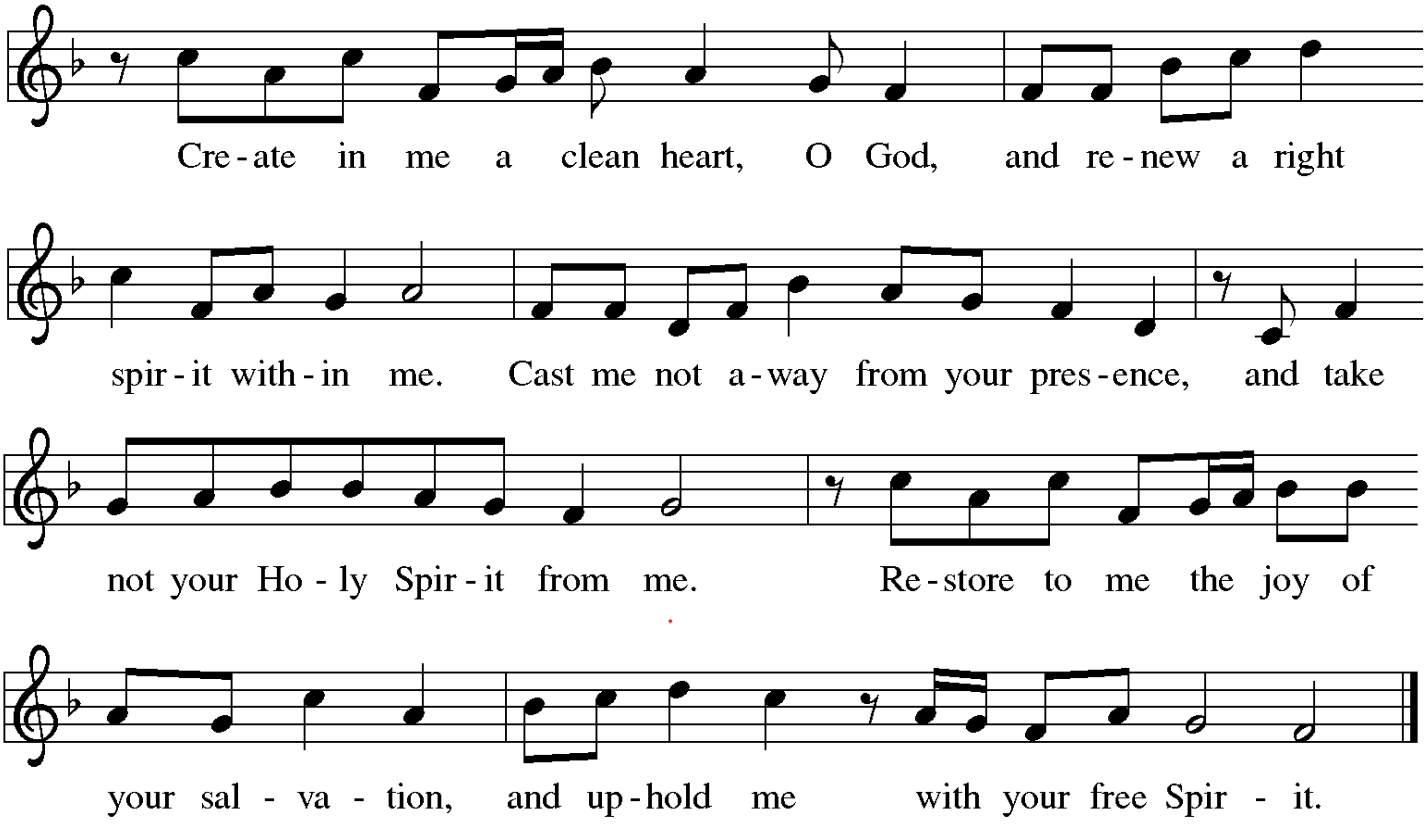
SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers John Finney (b. 1970)
Chancel Choir

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising, and soon He will draw nigh; Up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil; Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand; Rise up! Ye heirs of glory, The bridegroom is at hand! Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise thou Sun so longed For, above this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption, And ever live with Thee.

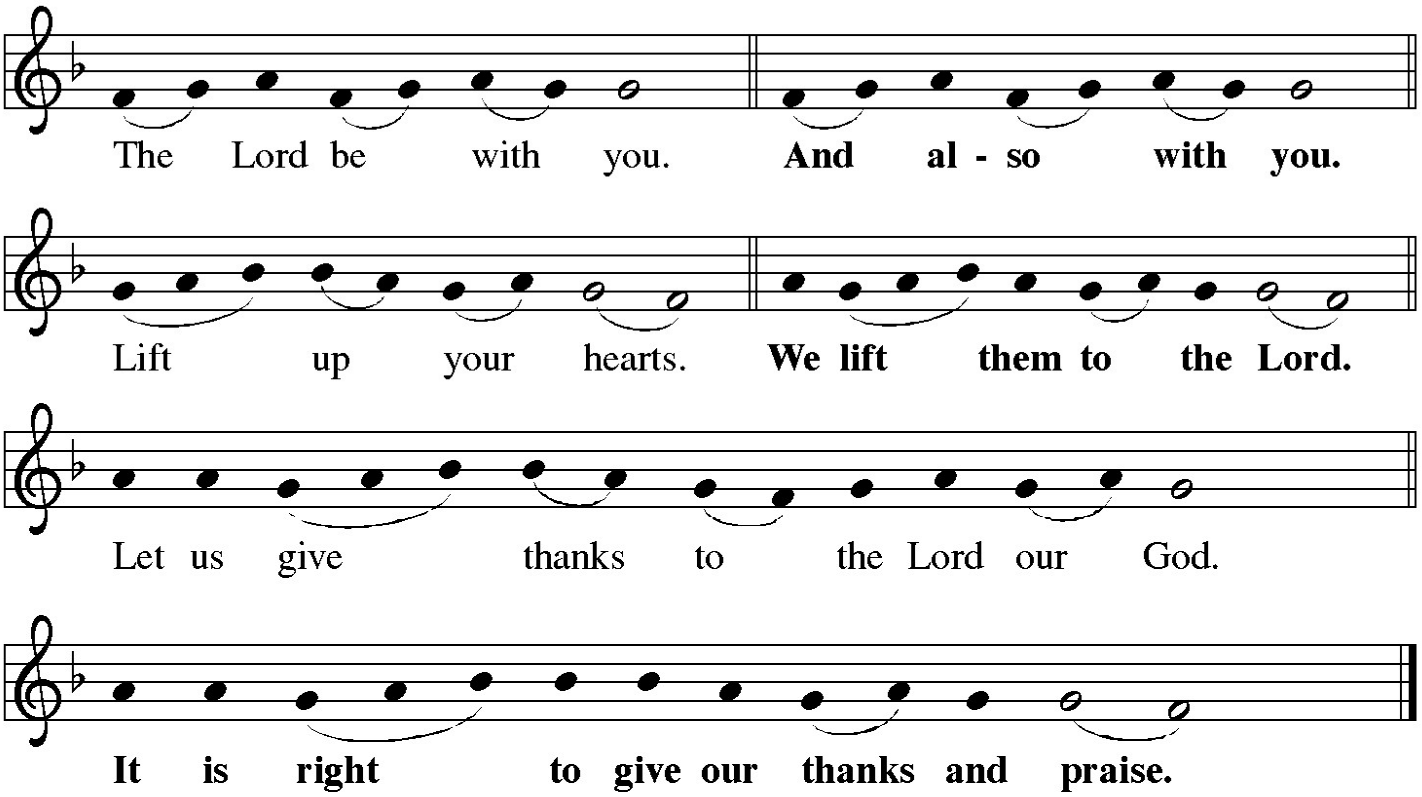
OFFERTORY



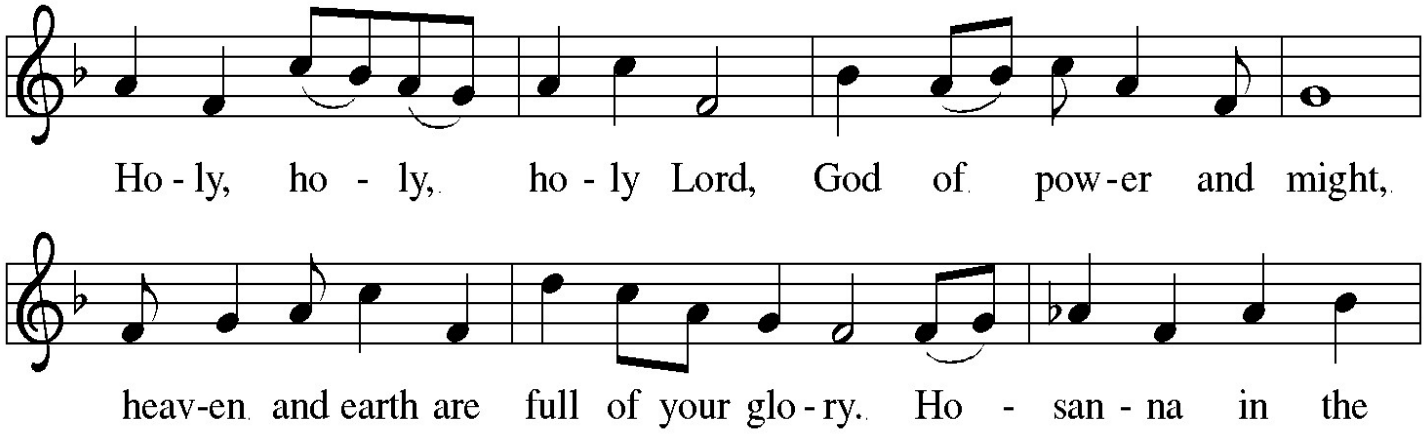
OFFERING PRAYER

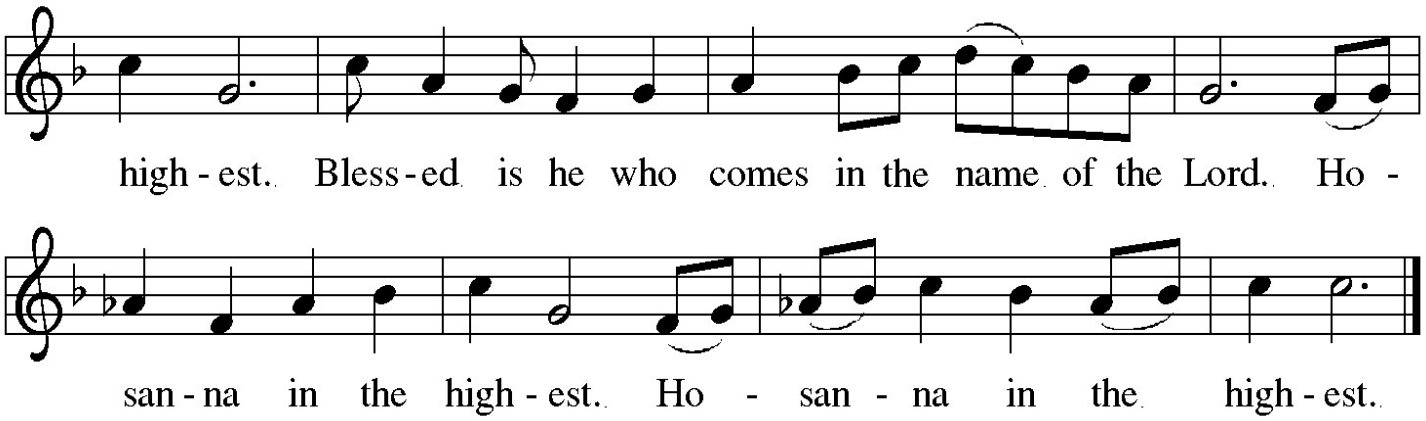
Let us Pray
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

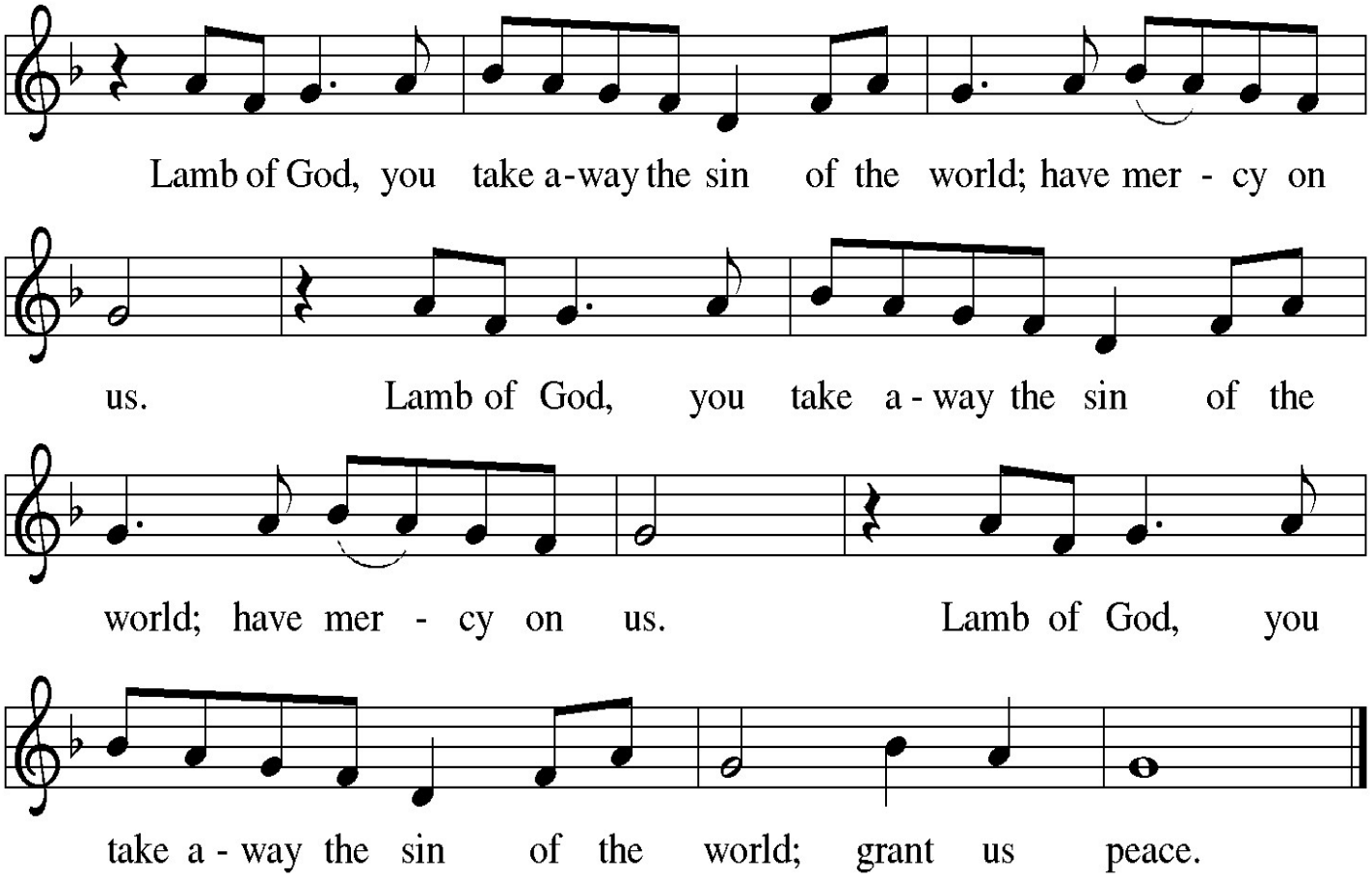
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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: When Peace Like a River **ELW 785**

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 Come, We That Love the Lord **ELW 625**

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 Finale in D Minor Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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.



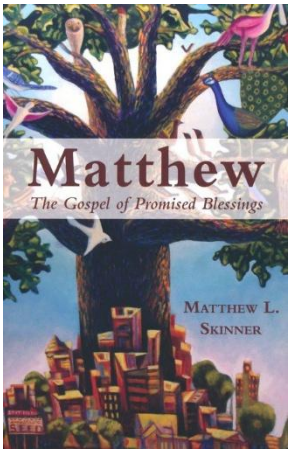
Let us know you are here.

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.



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 **11/11**, **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.



We have an upcoming concert
November 14th @ 3 PM
Sonnenberg Station





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

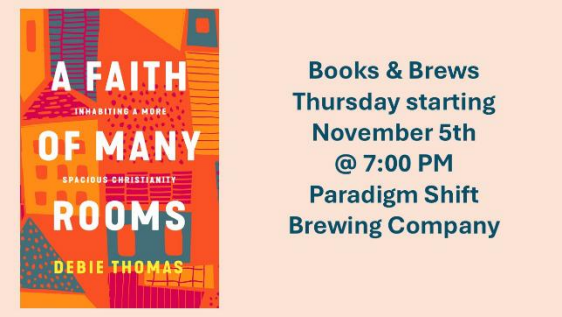


The Church Directory is now available on request. A printed copy will cost $2.25 An electronic copy (PDF) will be free of charge
You can request either or both formats by contacting the church office:
330.832.7409 or officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org
No copies will be issued to non-members.

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 **11/11, 11/18, and 12/2, we will hold class at 5 pm due to bell choir practice.***



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 **Thursday 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/



God's Kitchen Angels are making homemade cut-out Christmas cookies.



- $10/Dozen
- **Orders Due November 15th**
- Orders may be dropped off in offering plate, the office or you can call/text

Barb Palmer 330.244.1602
or
Sue Ambrosic 330.844.7648.

Pick-up date is November 22nd



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

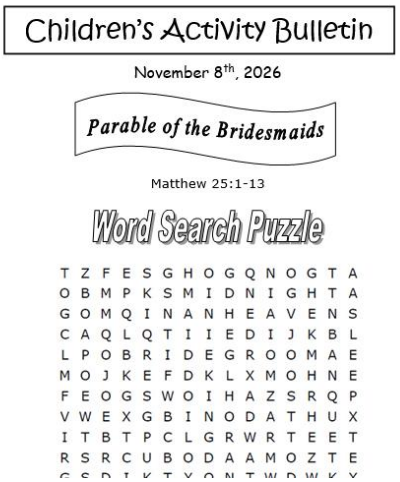
Coloring Page



The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids
Matthew 25:1-13

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.

Last Day to order Poinsettias – November 15th





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."

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

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	**Rev. Mark Kreemer**
Director of Music	**Dr. Abigail Haake**
Assisting Minister	**Scott Larson**
Lector	**Scott Larson**
Greeters	**Brady & Morgan Rupp**
Communion Assistants	**Brady Rupp & Kathryn Myers**
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**

Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923**
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

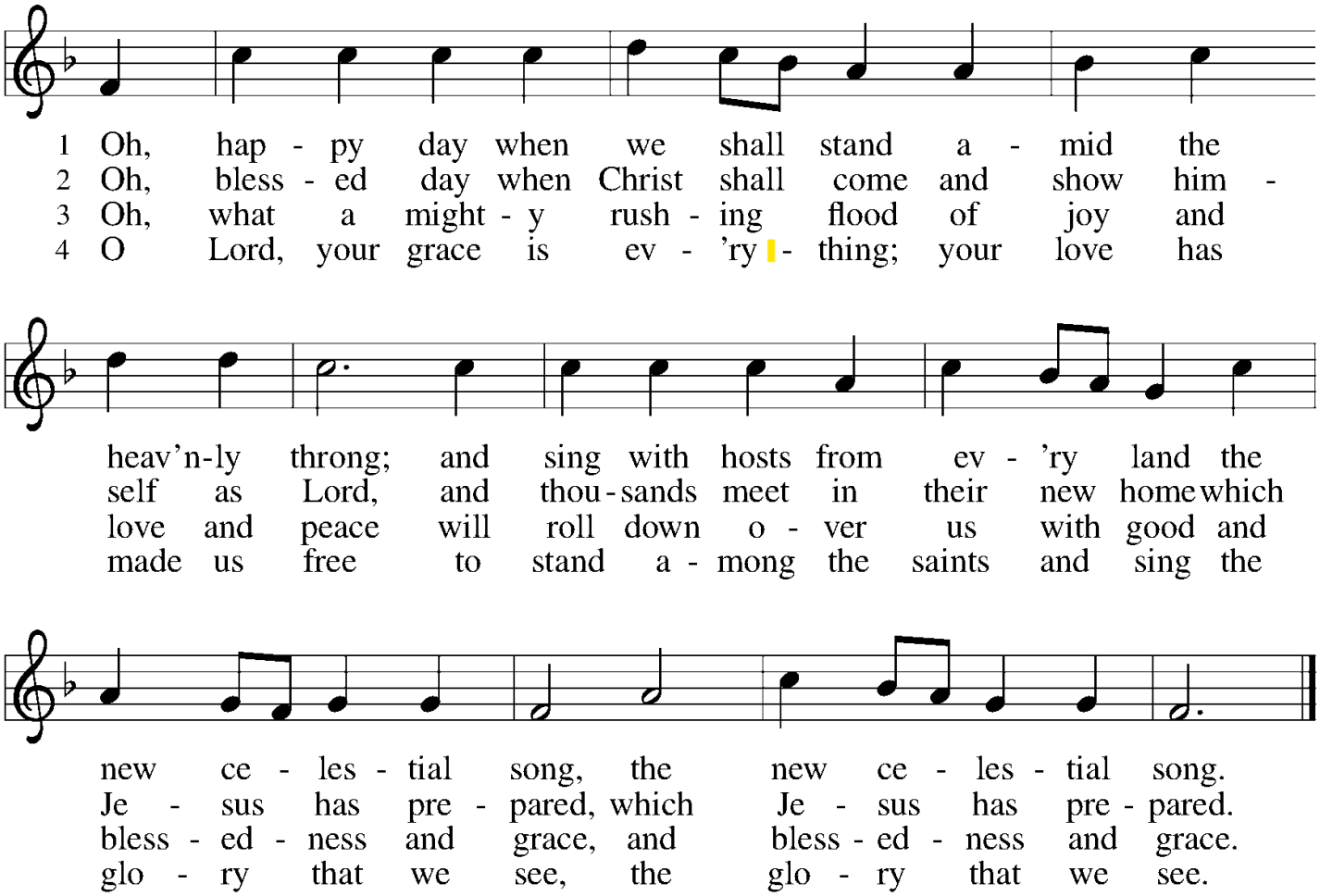
GATHERING HYMN Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand **ELW 441**
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

HYMN OF THE DAY Blessed Assurance **ELW 638**
Public Domain

Communion: When Peace Like a River **ELW 785**
Public Domain

SENDING HYMN Come, We That Love the Lord **ELW 625**
Public Domain
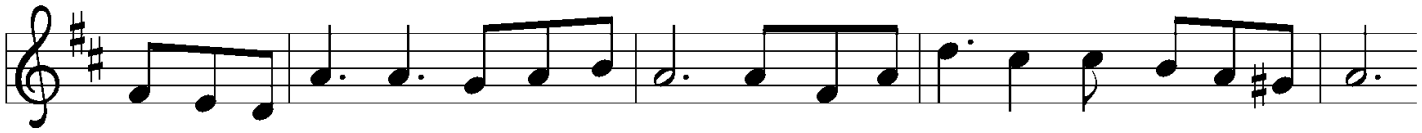
Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand
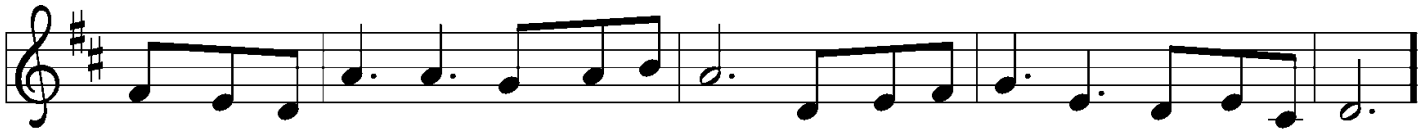


Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
Text © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress

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

Blessed Assurance
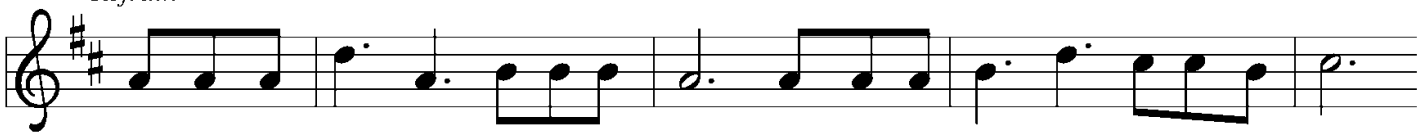


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,
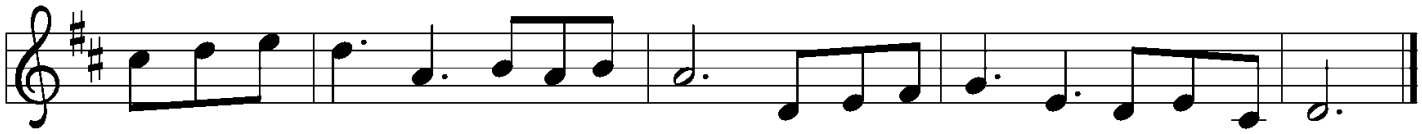


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:
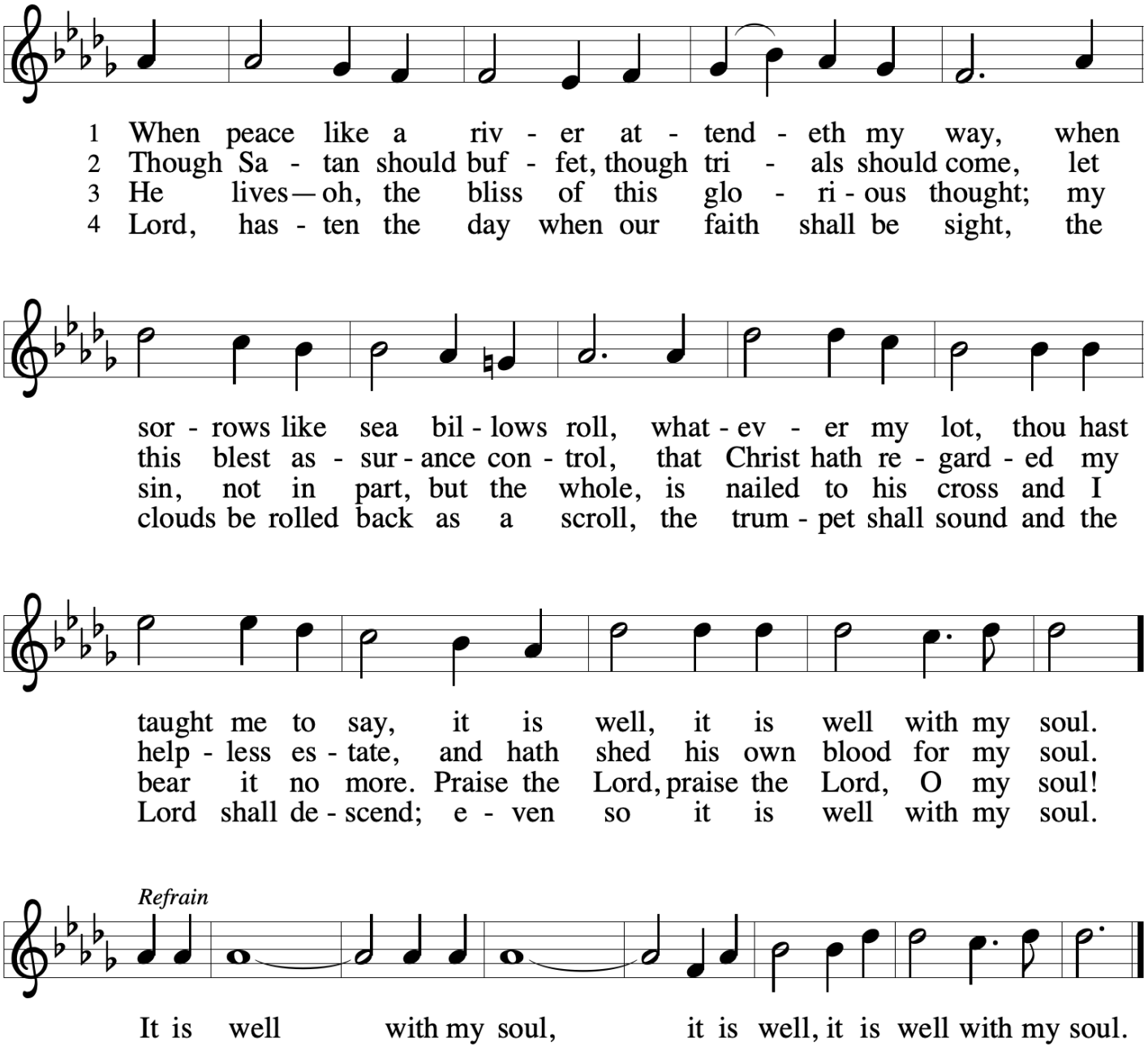


this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

When Peace, like a River

ELW 785

It Is Well with My Soul
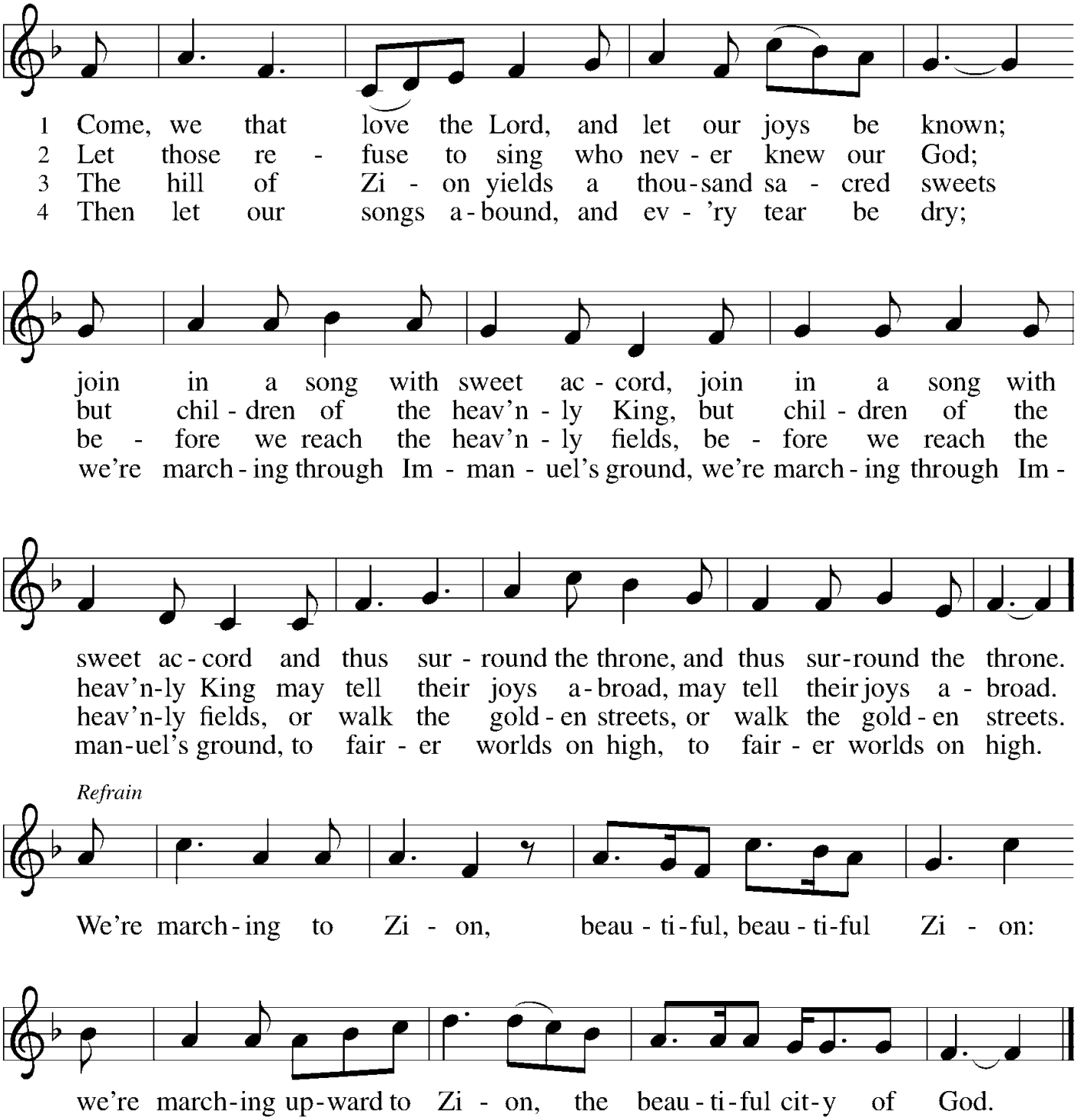


Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Come, We That Love the Lord

ELW 625

We're Marching to Zion



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry