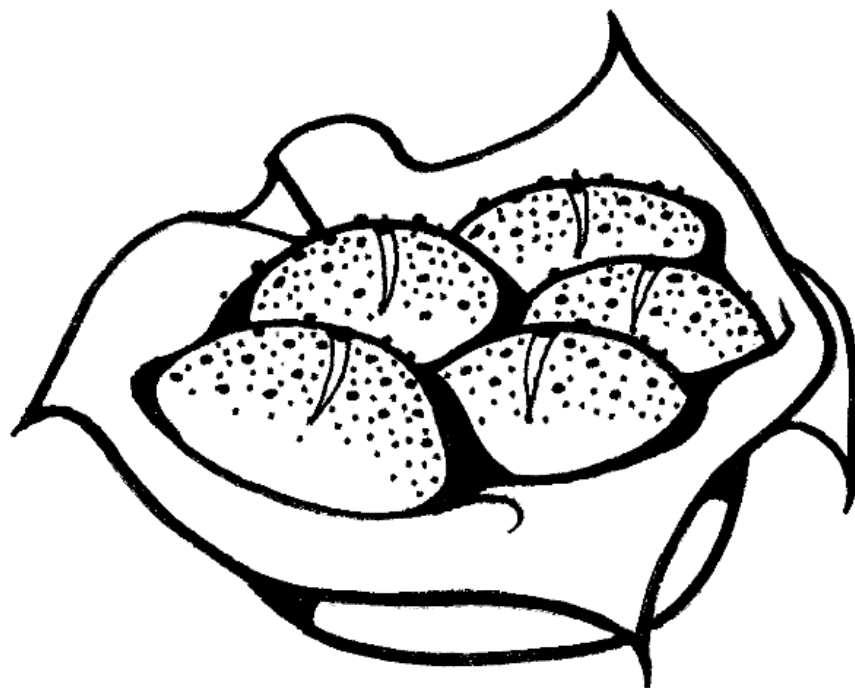


St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



**58 Fish Hill Road
PO Box 196
Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372
Telephone: (570) 629-1992
Fax: (570) 629-2038
Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org
Parish Administrator's Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org**

**Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.
Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals
Christian Education: Sunday's at 10:15 A.M.
Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family?

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION. . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Vacant – in Call Process

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2021 Council Members

Grant Allen

Bill Below

Terry Fouts

Chris Kinsley Sr.

Nicole Kresge

Carl Reindl

Deb Storman

Ingrid Unternahrer

Beth Werkheiser

We welcome Pastor Bill Thompson and Kelly Scheer and thank them for leading us in worship this morning!

Worship Service

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

**Please Stand, if you are able.*

Prelude

Announcements

*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.

*Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

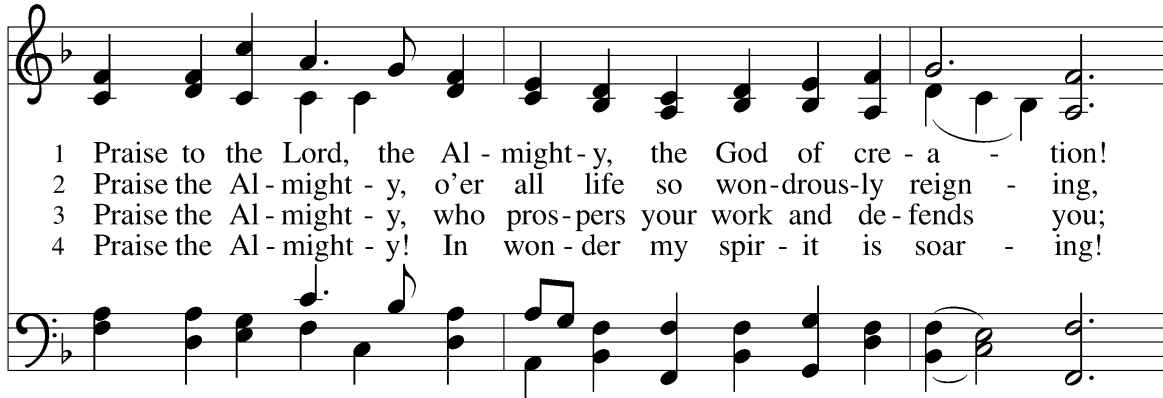
*Absolution

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

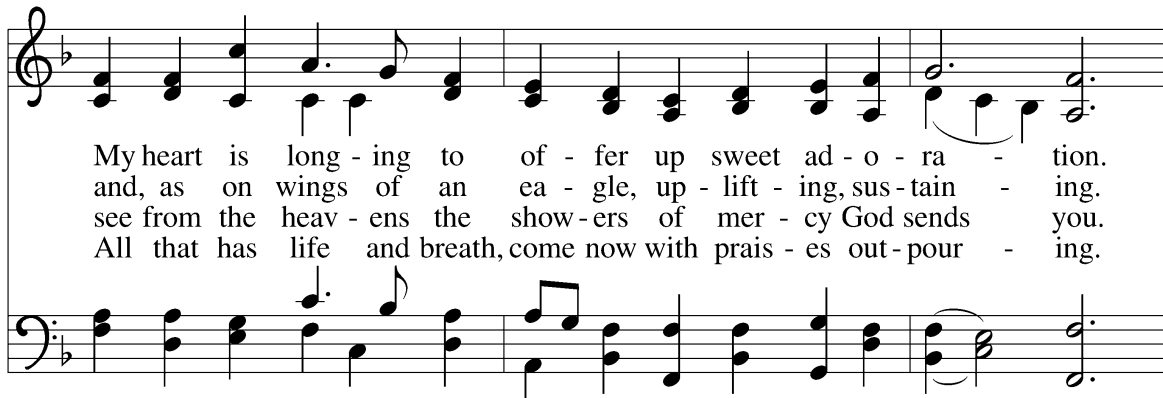
Amen.

*Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won-drous-ly reign - ing,
3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros-pers your work and de-fends you;
4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out-pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,




Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; tr. composite
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertes Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

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*Kyrie

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Hymn of Praise

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, the high-est, and



peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

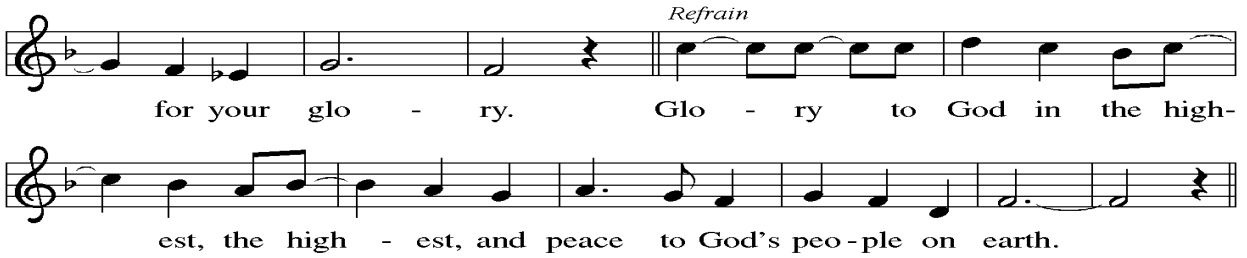


1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther,

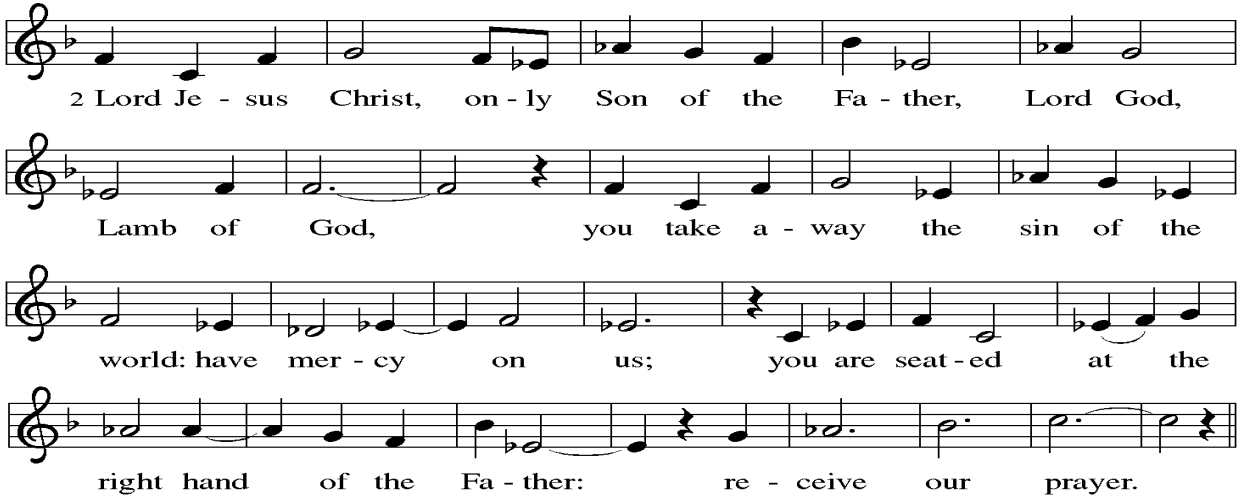


we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain

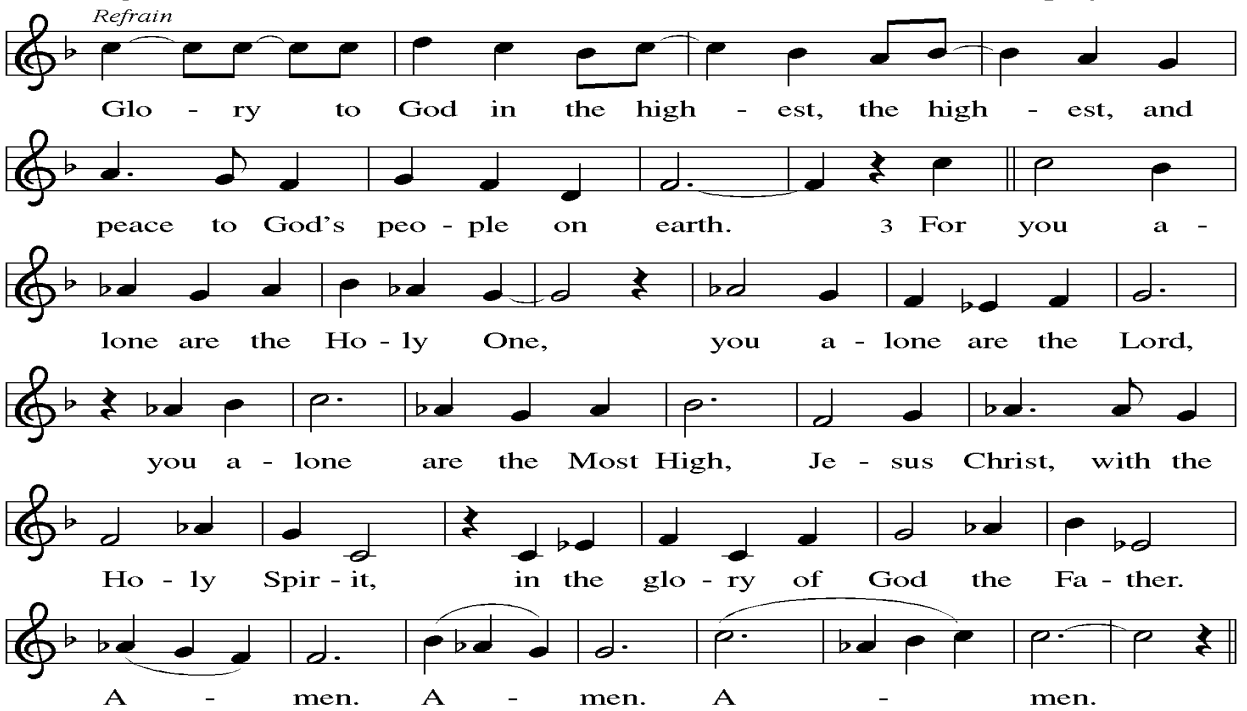


for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



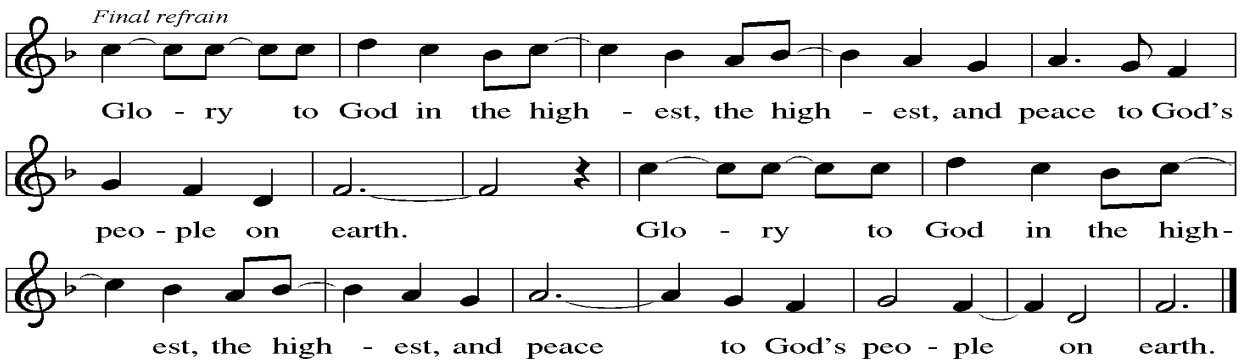
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

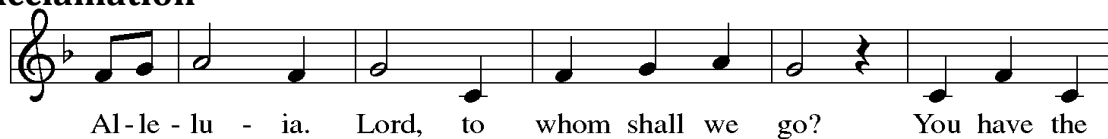
⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel: Mark 7:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Bill Thompson – “Jesus’s Word – Ephphatha!”

***Hymn of the Day**

Open My Eyes

*Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free*

Chorus

*Silently now I wait for Thee
Ready my God Thy will to see
Open my eyes illumine me
Spirit divine*

*Open my ears that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear
And while the wave notes fall on my ear
Everything false will disappear*

Chorus

*Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share*

Chorus

CCLI Song # 68003

Clara H. Fiske Scott

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***The 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**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The 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.

*Proper Preface

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

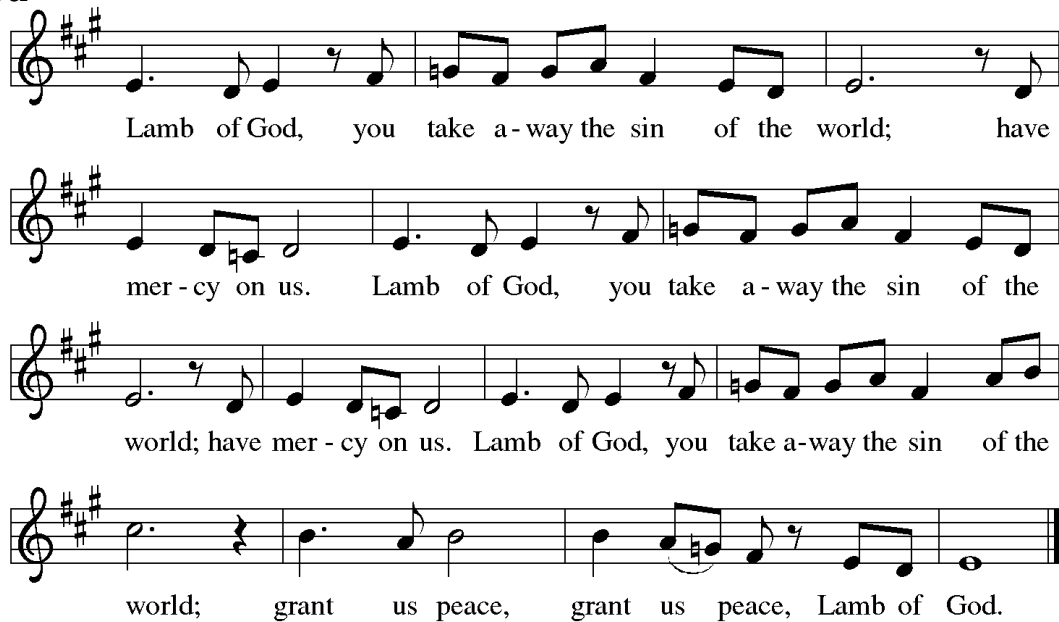
Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

*Post Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.

Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
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***Prayer After Communion**

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***Blessing**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Beautiful One

Wonderful, So Wonderful Is Your Unfailing Love,
 Your cross has spoken mercy over me
 No eye has seen, no ear has heard
 No heart could fully know,
 How glorious, how beautiful You are

Chorus

Beautiful One, I love You
 Beautiful One, I adore
 Beautiful One my soul must sing

Powerful, so Powerful Your glory fills the skies
 Your mighty works displayed for all to see
 The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing;
 How marvelous, How wonderful You are

Chorus Twice

You've opened my eyes to Your wonders anew
 You captured my heart with this love
 'Cos nothing on earth is as beautiful as You

Chorus

My soul, my soul must sing
My soul, my soul must sing
My soul, my soul must sing Beautiful One

Choral Benediction

May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
_____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
_____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

*Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

Postlude

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Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sharen Ace; Msgt. William F. Allen; Private William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Wynne Below; Nancy Besecker; Dillon Berenti; Cptn. Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Vicki Burnett; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Todd Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Dee DeAngelo; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Paul Fancher; Jamie Fisher & Family, on loss of son; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Bary Hartshorn; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Mason & Addison Kapun; Richard Kernan; Robbie Kinsley; Eleanor Kreuger; Dawne Ladeas; Joeann Lance; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Sue Neumann; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Shirley Pensyl; Sandy Richards; Joan Rinker; Norm Rinker; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gloria Russell; Jack Russell; Claudette Segear; Lynn Seip; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Gerald Staples; Kamia Taylor; Greg Theadford; Kelly Wickline; Charles Zuccarelli; Fran Zuccarelli; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the families of those killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. **Items of particular need are canned & boxed potatoes, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, and peanut butter.** ***Our Food Pantry remains open, although it is functioning as a curb-side service. This limits the contact to others and protects our food pantry staff and our building while still serving the needs of those in need.***



Don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

Adult Sunday School

Following worship, the Adult Sunday School will meet in Spies Hall. Each lesson is a “stand alone” study and participants need not commit to weekly participation, but may join for the Bible study hour as able. Today the class will complete a study on “A New Thing” from Isaiah 43 and begin a discussion on the new study, “One Nation Under God”, which is described in another part of the bulletin. That study will not begin until September 19. Please join your fellow worshippers in gaining and sharing insight about living as a Christian, especially when it’s difficult.

The Adult Sunday School class will be participating in a study entitled “One Nation Under God – Healing the Racial Divides In Our Country.” The author, the Rev. B. Keith Haney, has been an ordained pastor for 27 years, and has served multi-ethnic urban congregations in Detroit, St. Louis and Milwaukee. “During a time in which racial tensions are escalating, Christians are searching for ways to tear down the racial walls dividing our county. This six-session study charts a pathway to being that healing process. Forgiveness is not something humans can do on their own, it requires God changing human hearts as His people search through His Word.” Endorsements say the following about this study:

“It is biblical, thoughtful, reflective and interactive in its approach to help us heal racial division.”

It takes an “honest, raw and courageous look at the very real racial divide we are experiencing today, bringing the healing and restoring truth of Jesus Christ the Reconciler and Healer into the equation.”

“When you find your identity in Jesus Christ alone, all our relationships are transformed in Him! Rev. B. Keith Haney applies this powerful truth to the issues of racism and racial reconciliation that transcends politics and preference, bigotry and ignorance and roots that path from racial divide to faith-inspired reconciliation in the person and work of Jesus Christ for all.”

“The only place this fallen world can find true healing, justice and peace is God’s Word: the wisdom of the cross and all that comes with it. Rev. Keith Haney’s Bible study takes us through many applicable Scriptures, and that is what we all need for the healing we so deeply need in this country.”

“Grounded in the Word of God and utilizing Law and Gospel, Pastor Haney’s timely study of some of the racial tensions in the United States of America facilitates a thoughtful and needed conversation about the overtly sinful thoughts, racially-driven assumptions and divisive behaviors that destroy community, and the radical, reconciling love of Christ Jesus who not only models the restoration of communities but who works the very forgiveness, life, and salvation that nurture the true promise and fuel the lasting hope ... as a reconciling agent in the world.”

“Pastor Haney has offered the church an honest, heart-felt, and deeply personal study that touches on some of our most tightly held prejudices and divisions. The study is dangerous and risky. It will demand open and honest conversation. Participants will be asked to listen and process information from another’s point of view.”

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>