

Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

Welcome to worship - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *"It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving."* Psalm 95

Welcome children - Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Justin and Ashley MacKay
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Owen Werth, Jeff Ciupka
		Richard Miller, Ryan Panknin
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Alex Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Odessa Morrison
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Marty Cantleberry and Laurie Stafford

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

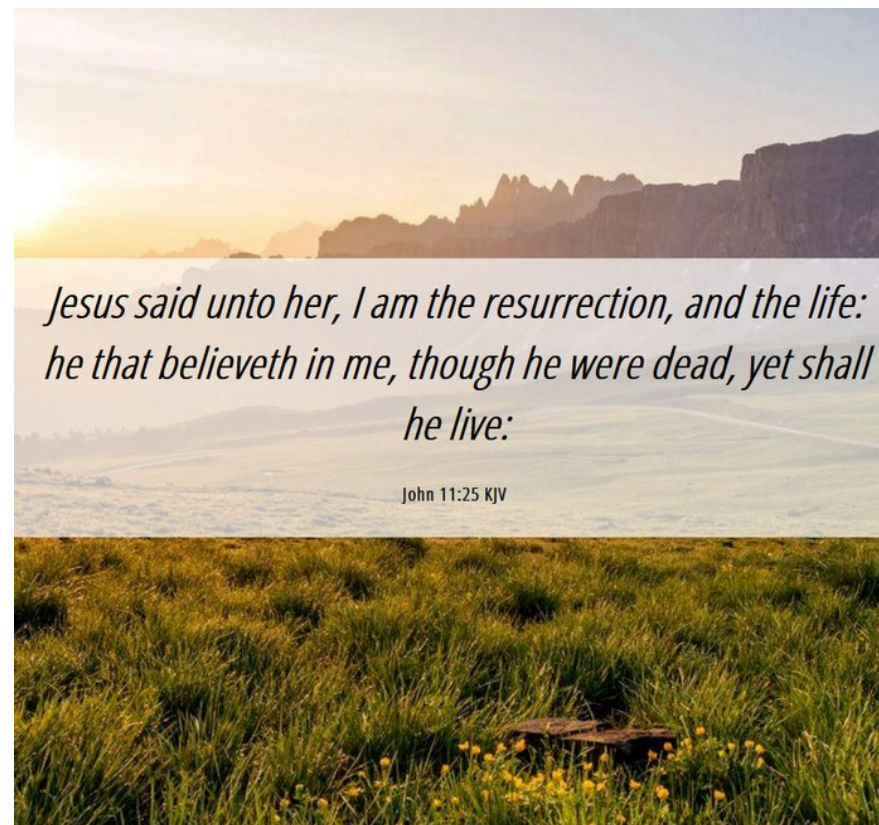
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



March 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
March 26, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 25, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
March 26, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold; Additional items for the 9:00 a.m. service only are printed in blue.)

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, Anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. The offering will be received at the back and front of the church building. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate in the front or back of the church before you depart the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (Red) #324

GREETING

Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The Wednesday Lent Services continue weekly and the next one is on March 29th. There will be two opportunities for you to worship that day:

* 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m.

* 6:00 p.m. for the Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. There will be a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. preceding the worship service.

The Soul Sisters are getting together on March 28th at 5:30 in the multipurpose room for Taco Tuesday! We will be having tacos and then signing Easter cards for Medilodge patients and St. Paul home bounds members. If anyone would like to bring something for the tacos and a dessert, please contact Val Urban, 989-356-4613 or Shirley Jones, 989-464-6472. Come join us for fun and fellowship!

Our March Service Activity is Pied Piper School. The items needed are: Sweatpants – sizes boys medium -XL; Underwear - boys med – X-large; Socks – sizes youth and adult; Gloves and hats – size adult; T-shirts – sizes long large and regular large; backpacks, and fidget (sensory item) toys. Please leave your donation items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

On Saturday, April 8th, the Adventure Club is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for our community within our building. We would love donations of time and candy. This will be another event to celebrate Christ in our community. Come and join the adventure.

The Crafters will be hosting a Bake Sale on Easter Sunday, before and after the 6:30 and 9:00 a.m. Easter Services in the Narthex. Come check out the cinnamon rolls, sweet breads, carrot cake, home-made bread and other choices for your Easter Sunday festivities. All proceeds from the sale will go towards the purchase of fruits, vegetables, and canning supplies for the Christmas Bazaar. Questions? Call Lori Ludwig at 356-4753.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 26–APRIL 2, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Tech Talks – 11:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle – 5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters “Taco Tuesday” – 5:30 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Women’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Yoga 101 – 11:00 a.m.; Wednesday Lent Lunch and Worship – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 1:00 p.m.; Choir – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service (at St. Paul Lutheran Church) – 6:00 p.m. (<i>preceded by a soup supper at 5:00 p.m.</i>)
<u>THURS.</u>	Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team–5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Pastor John’s Book Study – 5:30 p.m.; Nena’s Bible Study –5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes–8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 6:00
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Palm Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church and C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Evelyn Green, Sam Weiss, Judy Ableidinger, Tom Christou, Geri Hanson, Karen Wekwert, Bob Laity, Ray Bailey, Beverly Page, Cathy Neizka, Crystal Nelson, William Taylor, Kaye Remboski, Marty Peterson, Charles Atkinson, Judy Hand, Lori Ludwig, Mary Kuhl, Adam Schmidt, Mya Hall, Myra Gapske, Keeley Knapp, Don Urban Sr., Billiejo Foster, Jerry Swanson, John Wegmeyer, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Nancy Chrzan, Phyllis Robb, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. *We also remember our homebound members.* They are: Geraldine Wyman, Harriet Burke, Virginia Kraft, Deb Lange, Phyllis Robb, Delores Stevens, and Norm Dutcher. *(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you please help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you for your partnership in prayer.)*

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Rev. Kjersten Sullivan

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for The Adventure Club.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given to the glory of God

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Ash Wed. (03/15) 12:30 p.m.	Income 21,945.97	21,947.95
Saturday (03/18) 5:30 p.m. 60	Expenses <u>31,490.88</u>	<u>31,490.88</u>
Sunday (03/19) 9:00 a.m.	Difference (9,544.91)	(9,544.91)
10:30 a.m. <u>17</u>		
Total		

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Lenten Educational Opportunities, that will run through April 5th! Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class also meets on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will do a Book Study “On Death and Dying” by Kubler Ross, and Miss Nena will do a Bible Study - “Fierce - Women of the Bible Who Changed the World” by Jennifer Cowart (DVD).

Join us for the Holy Week Services. They are as follows: Palm Sunday we will have our three regular weekend services; Maundy Thursday Service & Luncheon (St. Paul) - 12:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Maundy Thursday at Trinity Episcopal Church, April 6th, at 6:00, preceded by a Soup Supper at 5:00; Good Friday Services, April 7th, Tre-Ore Service (at Grace Lutheran Church) from 12:00-3:00, evening service at 6:00 (at St. Paul), followed by the movie “The Passion” at 7:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 9th, we will have three services: A Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., Liturgical Service at 9:00 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 130 (Read Responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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 - jice 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

(Red) #338

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

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EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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.**

(Pleased be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice for those who prefer it.

"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.

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

"Take Away The Stone"

Pastor John

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

(Red) #886

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

***Universal**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . *(concluding)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy Holy

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you! My

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi

F G C Am F G7 C
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to_e - res Se - ñor.