

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 Cattleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 am.	Barb Szczesniak, Paul Kieliszewski
		Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Carla Steinke
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Ashley Reed, Bonnie Duby
		Jean Johnson, Karen Wekwert
<u>LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Ophelia Steinke, Ashley Reed
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Sandy Samp, Laurie Stafford, and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

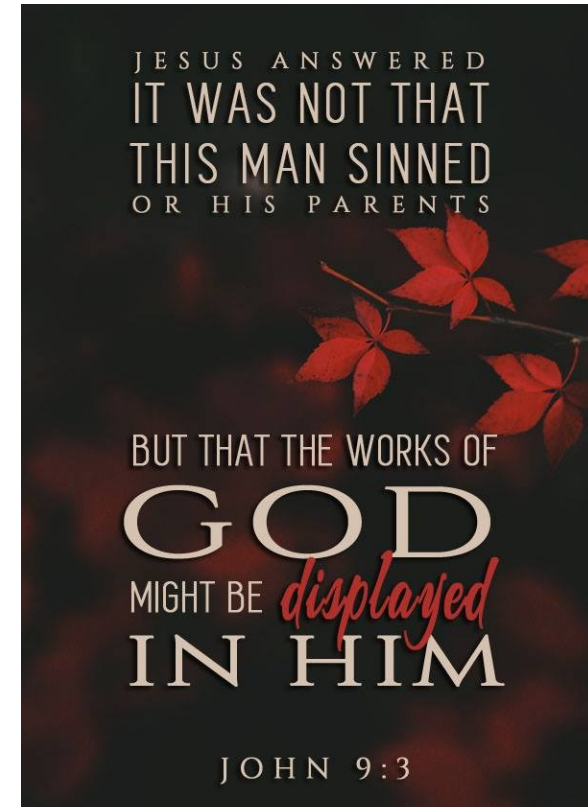
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



2026 Theme: "Be Our Vision Lord"

March 14, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

March 15, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
March 15, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests.
We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
 Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water
 Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope
 in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to
 come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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 "O God of Mercy, God of Light" (Red) #714

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.

Soul Sisters will meet March 17th at 5:30 in room 207 to sign Easter cards for shut-ins at Besser Living and Turning Brook. A light snack will be served as we celebrate this opportunity to share the message of the resurrection with others in our community. Please contact Shirley 989-464-6472 or Val 989-916-5560 if you plan on attending this event. If you would like to donate Easter cards bring them with you or drop them off at the church office. This is a Soul sisters event but all ladies of St. Paul are welcome to participate.

Everyone is invited to join us as we honor Pastor John and Nena in a **Celebration of Ministry** at JJ's on Sunday, March 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 24th. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

There will be a Pop-Up Hygiene Closet on Saturday, March 28th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. FREE personal care, household cleaning, and laundry products! No sign-up or qualifications required.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Adventure Club is again planning an Easter Egg Hunt for our community within our building, at 12:00 p.m. We would love donations of grass for baskets, candy, and items to be included in our family friendly baskets for the raffle. These items can be dropped off at the office. *Thank you.*

Join us for the Holy Week Services. They are as follows: Palm Sunday we will have our three regular weekend services; Maundy Thursday Worship April 2, at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a Soup Supper at 5:00 p.m. Good Friday Services, April 3rd -Tre-Ore Service (at First Presbyterian Church) from 12:00-3:00 p.m. There will be an evening service at 6:00 p.m. (at St. Paul), followed by the movie "The Passion" at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 5th, 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. There will be an Easter Breakfast after the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service. Please note there will be no Saturday service on April 4th.

If you would like to order an Easter flower in honor or in memory of someone, there are order forms in the Narthex or church office to fill out. The deadline to get your order in is March 30th.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 15 – 22, 2026	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC– 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A.- 10:30 a.m.; Forget-Me-Nots Matinee – 2:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; AARP Taxes– 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts–4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.; Feeding Kids Ministry – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Easter Card Signing and Fellowship – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Lent Lunch and Service – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John Bible Study – 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service/Soup Supper (Grace Lutheran Methodist Church) – 5:30 p.m.; Nena's Book Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Stitches of Joy – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.; Celebration of Ministry (at JJ's) – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

David McNeil-upcoming surgery
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues
Kevin Atkinson – health issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues
Kevin Reiser – health issues
Cathy Murtha – medical issues
Margaret Lucian – health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues

Patricia Nelson - grief
Milt Paquette – health issues
June Sylvester – fractured back
Storm Yakes – medical issues
Greg Dzieszinski- health issues
Joel Foster – health issues
Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Lee Werth—health issues
Ann Martin – medical issues
Alan Marwede–health issues

Laura Fair – fell
Chad Hamill – health issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues
Kioni Peoples family - grief
Lisa Dzieszinski-health issue
Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Malary Smith – unspecified
Mike H. - illness
Dena Stevens – health issues

(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Portage, Rev. Rachel Laughlin.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Stitched Together group.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Wednesday 03/04 12:30 p.m. 43
Saturday 03/07 5:30 p.m. 55
Sunday 03/08 9:00 a.m. 44
10:30 a.m. 42
Total 184

END OF JANUARY

Income 21,227.40
Expenses 34,674.00
Difference (13,446.60)

YEAR TO DATE

21,227.40
34,674.00
(13,446.60)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in celebration of our March family birthdays; Noelle Wiebeck (*niece*) March 16 & Duane F. Wiebeck Jr. (*brother*) March 29 from Chuck & Katrina Schweinsberg.

The March Service Activity is Pied Piper School. Items needed: coloring and activity books, markers, large crayons, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Fidget toys would also be great for the students. Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Please join us for the Wednesday Lent Worship Services - March 18 & 25. The worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church is at 12:25 p.m., with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The Ecumenical Activity this week, March 18 will be held at Grace Lutheran Church at 6:00. with a Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor John and Miss Nena's Lent Educational Opportunities run through March 25th. Pastor John's classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena's class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. ***Come join us!***

The Forget-Me-Nots will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at noon in the church dining hall. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. We hope to see you there.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, March 16th at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

² But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

⁴ Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵ Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

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

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation



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.**

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Pastor: 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. A - men, a - men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

(Red) #324

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores 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.

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.

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

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

Children’s Message

“Jesus Loves Me”
Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

CCLI Song No. 5152333; © 2001 Stormey Music | P.E. Velvet Music (Admin. by Integrated Copyright Group, Inc.); Billy Aerts | Kenneth Harding; All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com; CCLI License No. 2311887

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Now That Is Remarkable”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (Red) #779

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 Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

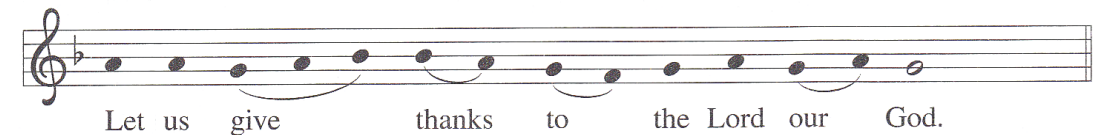
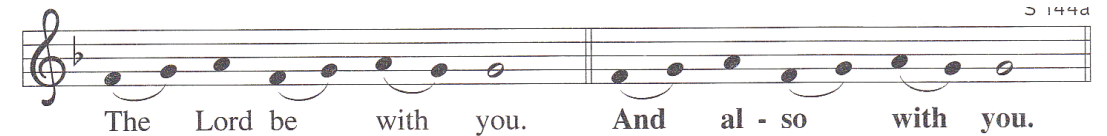
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 Lord