

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.

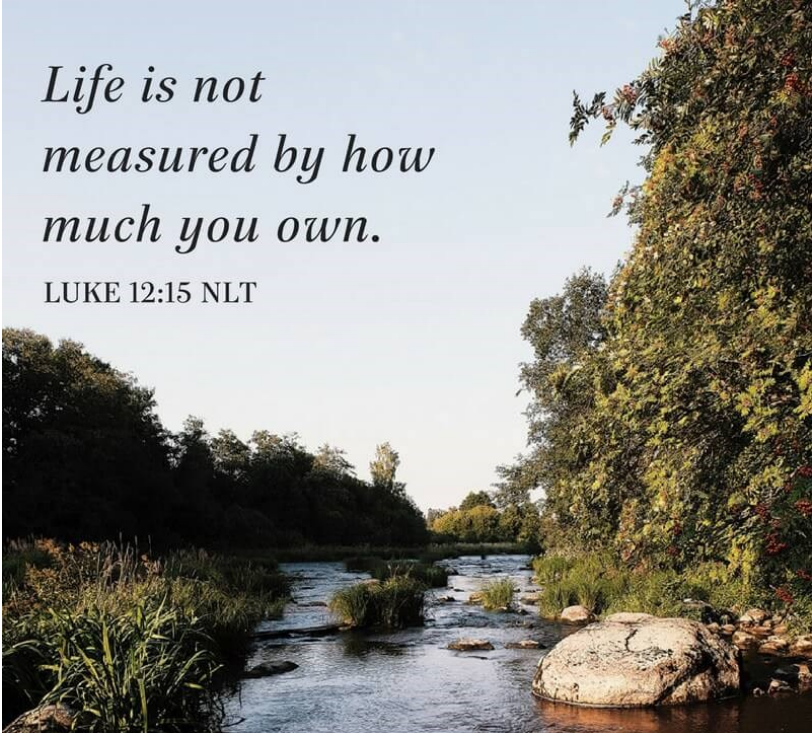
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<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.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 am.	Dennis Dziesinski, Barb Szczesniak
		Paul Kieliszewski, Owen Werth
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Karen Wekwert, Amy DeRosia, Sue Robb
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Andrea Dutcher, Evie & Mia Bicker
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce 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

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Personnel Committee



August 2, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 3, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
August 3, 2025 - 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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path 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 “Lead Me, Guide Me” (Red) #768

GREETING
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: And also with you.

We welcome into the Kingdom of God, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism (Sunday 10:30) Stacy Lukitsch and Jacob Plamondon and their child, Frances Plamondon. Their sponsors are Autumn Rimer and Sylvia Beck. May the Lord surround them with His grace as they grow to know Him as Lord and Savior.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet for a picnic lunch and conversation on Tuesday, August 5th at noon at the church picnic grounds, weather permitting. Please bring your lunch and a beverage. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, call Ann at (989) 590-2055.

The Soul Sisters are kayaking on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month this summer. We will meet at Sytek Park at 5:30 p.m. So, in August we will meet next on August 12th and 26th. All ladies are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

Please lift up in prayer the new bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry who was elected July 30, 2025 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held in Phoenix Arizona.

Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a fireside chat on Sunday, August 31st from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We will sit by the firepit near the river (or in the house or gazebo) and talk about life, hope, grace and the love of God (no agenda). This is a gift from Nena and I, so nothing is required to be part of this experience. Come for 15 minutes or for 2 hours.

Worship on the Beach. We will celebrate 2 more times this summer at our beach property. The last Saturday of each month (August 30 and September 27) at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a friend, a beverage of choice, a lawn chair, snacks and a joyful spirit. Saturday night services will continue at 5:30 p.m. We will carpool from the church and travel to the beach property at 6:30 p.m. The service and time of fellowship will last from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If there is rain, we will reschedule.

Join us for a Bowling Event “Strikes Spark Compassion” on Friday, September 12, 2025, at the Thunder Bowl Lanes. Please come out to bowl (\$60) 4-person team, be a lane sponsor (\$75) or an event sponsor (\$100). With the bowling you get a pizza and a pitcher of pop. Chinese Raffle and 50-50 during the event. This is a fund raiser for St. Paul Church for weather-proofing the church with the bid being \$60,000.00. This needs to be done to keep the moisture out of the brick and mortar, which is leaking into the church. Questions? Please contact the church office or Val Urban, 989-916-5560.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>AUGUST 3—10, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch. – 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; Personnel Meeting—5:15 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Forget-Me Nots (Church Picnic Grounds) – 12:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.; Singles@St. Paul – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Ch. – 10:30

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Lisa Creguer – cancer treatments	Sarah Henry – heart surgery
Joan Smolinski – knee surgery	Debra Gapske – health issues	Eugene Brooks-medical issues
Dave Szejbach – medical concern	Jeanne Phillips – health issues	Gary Lumsden - surgery
Carol – medical concerns	Lee Werth—health issues	Cruz – health issues
Alex Gonzales-medical concerns	Jay Robarge – health concerns	Amy Sharp– medical concerns
Mark Christou – health issues	David McNeil – health issues	Randy Krebs—health issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues	Gary—medical concerns	Art Hoffmeyer - heart issues
Laura Kieliszewski – health issues	Jan Plamondon – grief	Chad Hamill – health issues
Lisa Cook – surgery	Ann Martin – medical issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Shelly Hoffmeyer– shoulder	John Wegmeyer– health issues
Dena Stevens – health issues	Annette Wade – medical issues	Laura Cussen – stroke
Karen Wallace – unspecified need	Vicki Carlson – health issues	

ARMED SERVICES: Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedzic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *(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. Thank you.)*

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Herron, Pastor Leslie Nye

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Assisting Ministers.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		END OF JUNE		YEAR TO DATE
Saturday (07/26) 5:30 p.m.	57	Income	36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (07/27) 9:00 a.m.	49	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>57</u>	Difference	(8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total	163			

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

The August Service Activity is Besser Elementary School. Items needed: Expo markers, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, glue, water bottles, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, headphones, Post-it notes, colored popsicle sticks, manilla folders, Ziploc bags (snack or sandwich size), red pens, pencil cap erasers, brown or white lunch paper bags, stickers, Dum Dums suckers, snacks, Playdough, paper towels, sponges, ice packs, band aids, coffee filters (to hold snacks), Dollar Tree gift cards (used to purchase incentives for the classroom), socks, underwear (all sizes) hair ties, sweat pants (smaller sizes) and plastic folders with three prongs in the center. Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you.

Join the Dynamic Duo Couple Ministry at the Shipmans (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a Wine Tasting on Friday, August 22nd, from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or 2) and an appetizer or dessert to share. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Wekwert or Amy Wickstrom.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-24, 2:18-23

¹Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.
¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

PSALM: Psalm 49:1-12 (Read Responsively)

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
both low and high, rich and poor together.
My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.
Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?
Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life; there is no price one can give to God for it.
For the ransom of life is costly and can never suffice,
that one should live on forever and never see the Pit.
When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.
Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own.
Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11


¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.



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: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

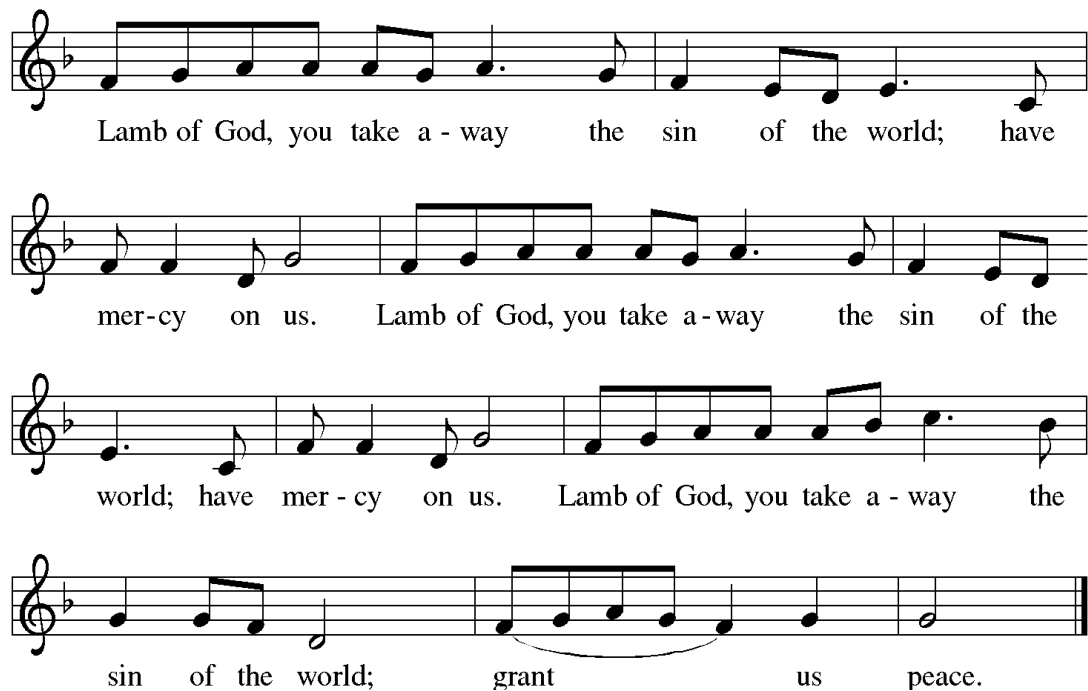
BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “We Are Called” (Red) #720

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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.

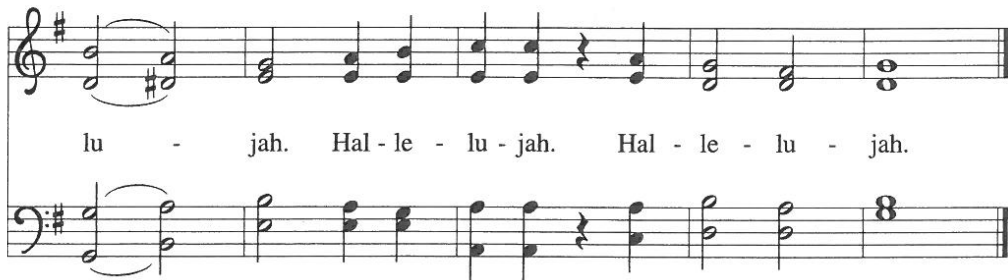
Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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.



lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“The Gifts of God”

Rev. John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

(Red) #655

Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

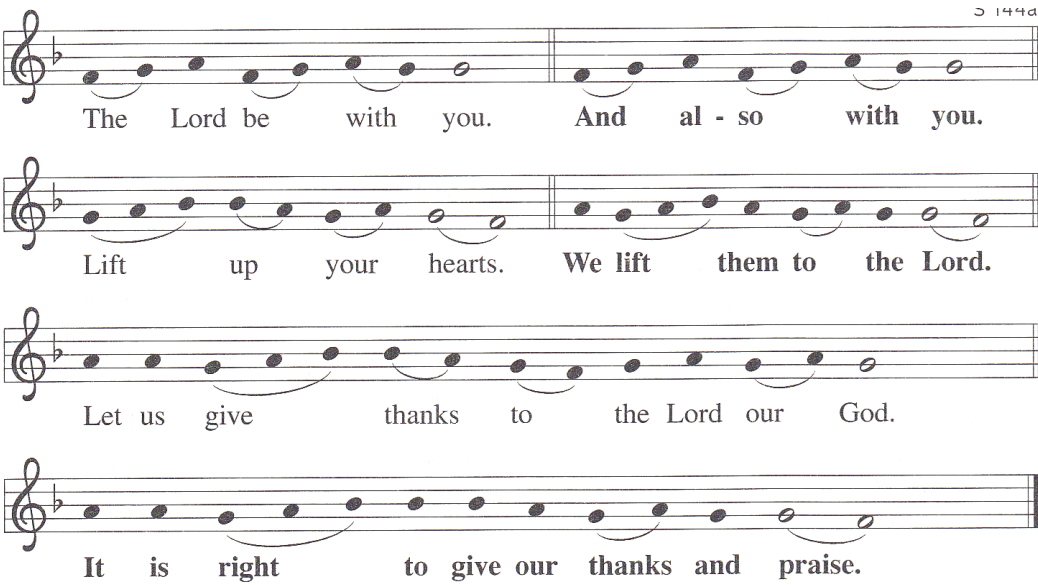
People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On 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 God of grace,
hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

(Please stand)
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

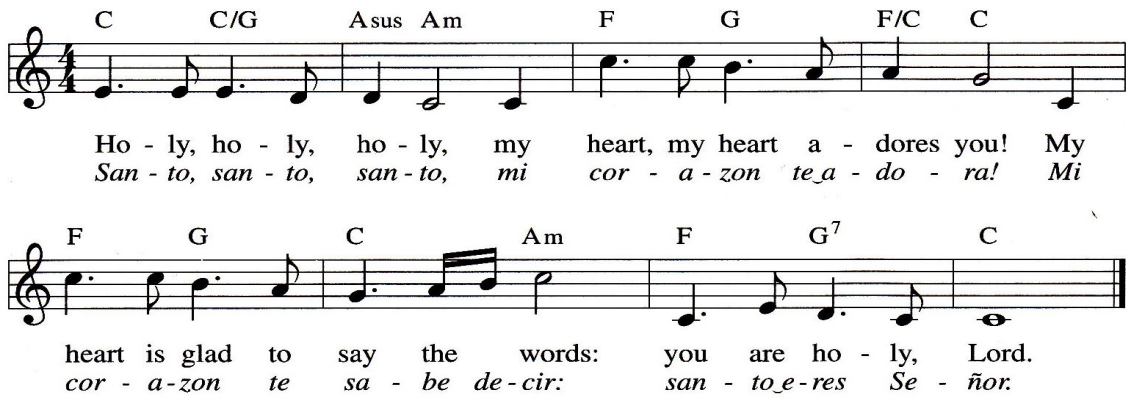
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



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

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”