

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.

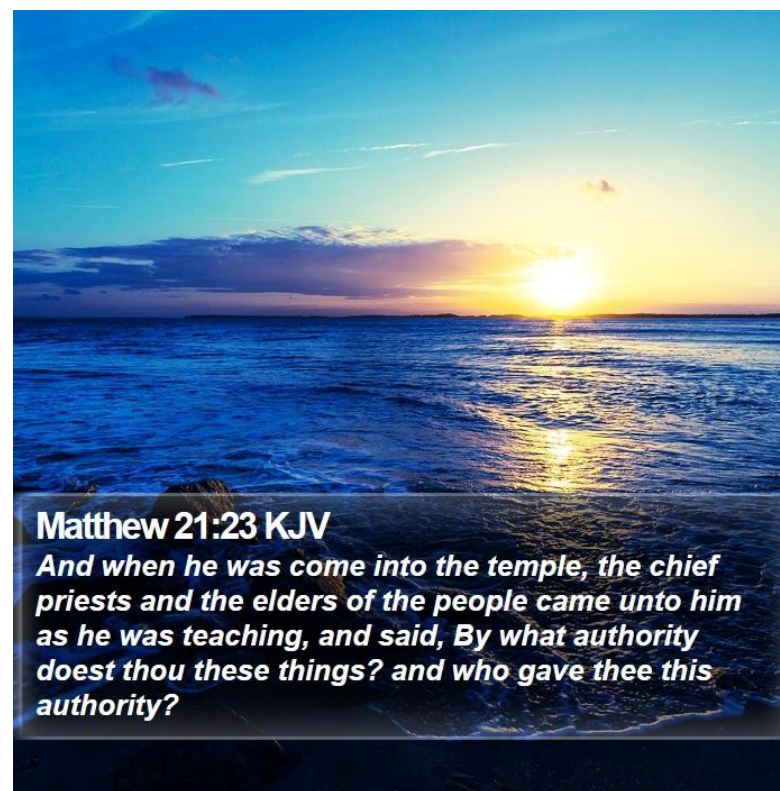
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

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.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Keyes
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Nancy Smithem
		Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Alex Wickstrom
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce, Carol Kindt, Karen Hamann, Sue Robb

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



Matthew 21:23 KJV

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

September 30, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
October 1, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.



GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 30, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
October 1, 2023 - 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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

“God Is Here!”

(Red) #526

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.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet at the 19th Hole Restaurant at noon on Tuesday, October 3. Please call Ann at 989-590-2055 to make a reservation, which helps the staff members plan.

Please note: **Yoga Classes** will begin on October 5th. Chair Yoga at 3:00 p.m. and Recovery Yoga at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Troy Spencer (our former intern) and Emily Reese are going to be married on October 7th in Pennsylvania. If you would like to send them a wedding gift, their address is: 1600 Fowler Ave., Berwick, PA 18603.

The Singles Retreat is set for October 13th! Come explore the vision of “Living Your Best Single Life in Christ.” This event will take place at 1921 Long Rapids Road at 6:00 and there is no cost associated with this. We will explore God’s promises for community and fellowship for single Christians, ages 18-100.

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, October 15th, right after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please note: There will be only one service (Sunday 9:00 a.m.) that weekend. Packets are available in the Narthex, one per family please.

The Dynamic Duo Ministry is sponsoring a **Progressive Dinner** on Friday, October 20th. We will be traveling from house to house for different parts of a meal. This event is open to all couples. Come and be part of this new ministry expression. You may sign up online or call the church office.

St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Esther Kindt at 471-2274.

The St. Paul Christmas Bazaar is November 4th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room, with our famous “Turkey Noodle Casserole” being served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are now available for sale (\$12.00 and children under 5 are free) either at the church office or bazaar member. To honor our former chairperson – Lori Ludwig, we are splitting our “tithe” money between the two places she served graciously for so many years, the Friendship Room at St. Bernards and Trinity Sunday Supper. Our next meeting is October 9th at 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Esther at (989) 471-2274.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 1–8, 2023	
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30
MON.	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
TUES.	Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Education Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; St. John Bible Study (Pastor John) – 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; “Joshua - Winning the Worry Battle” Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Property Committee – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00
THURS.	3M Men’s Breakfast (at JJ’s) – 7:00 a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.
FRI.	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and 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: Shirley Kowalski, Barbara Carlson, Marty & Liz Smith, Loccia Fifield, Sue Kaiser, Andy Beagle, Phyllis Robb, Jillian Kerby, Frank, Pat Brodziak, Sarah Moe Melching, Brendia Mantea, Allison Dutcher, David Hunt, Dolores Libka, David Reeves, Julie Troy, Geri Hanson, Keeley Knapp, Billiejo Foster, Gus Schultz, Elaine Kingsbury, Sally Barney, Joel Foster, Eugene Brooks, Bodo Hanson, Sutton Badder, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Audrey Reck, Bernice Menck, and Karen Wallace. ARMED SERVICES: Noah Hardesty, Michael Emington, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Alexander Gould, Mandy Killingbeck, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, Justin A. Smith, and Maragely Hein. *(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: Grace Lutheran Church, Grayling, Rev. Kenneth Scheck, II

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

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given in memory of our father, Leonard Boboltz on his birthday, with love from daughters, Juliana Specht and Janice Boboltz.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF JULY</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (09/23)	5:30 p.m.	61	Income	26,400.89	213,982.64
Sunday (09/24)	9:00 a.m.	46	Expenses	<u>29,813.22</u>	<u>233,530.17</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>30</u>	Difference	(3,412.33)	(19,547.53)
Total		137			

Join us for our Autumn Educational Opportunities, which run September 20 through October 25. Pastor John is holding a Bible Study on the Gospel of John and Miss Nena is leading a Book Study on “Joshua- Winning the Worry Battle,” by Barb Roose. Each class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 PM and Miss Nena’s class also meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

The October Service Activity is Ella White Elementary School. Items needed: Sweatpants/leggings (sizes 6-14), underwear (sizes 6-14), tennis shoes (all kid sizes), and snacks for our students (any type of pre-packaged snack item is beneficial) Please leave your donations on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be taking part in the community Trunk R Treat again this year, which will be held October 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. So, if you would like to donate candy, please drop it off at the church. *Thank you.*

There will be an Alpena Peace Community Concert on Sunday, October 1st from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Alpena. Come out and enjoy a free concert featuring a variety of local musicians. For more information visit Alpena Peace Community on Facebook. Everyone is welcome!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (Read Responsively)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

(Red) #547

DISMISSAL

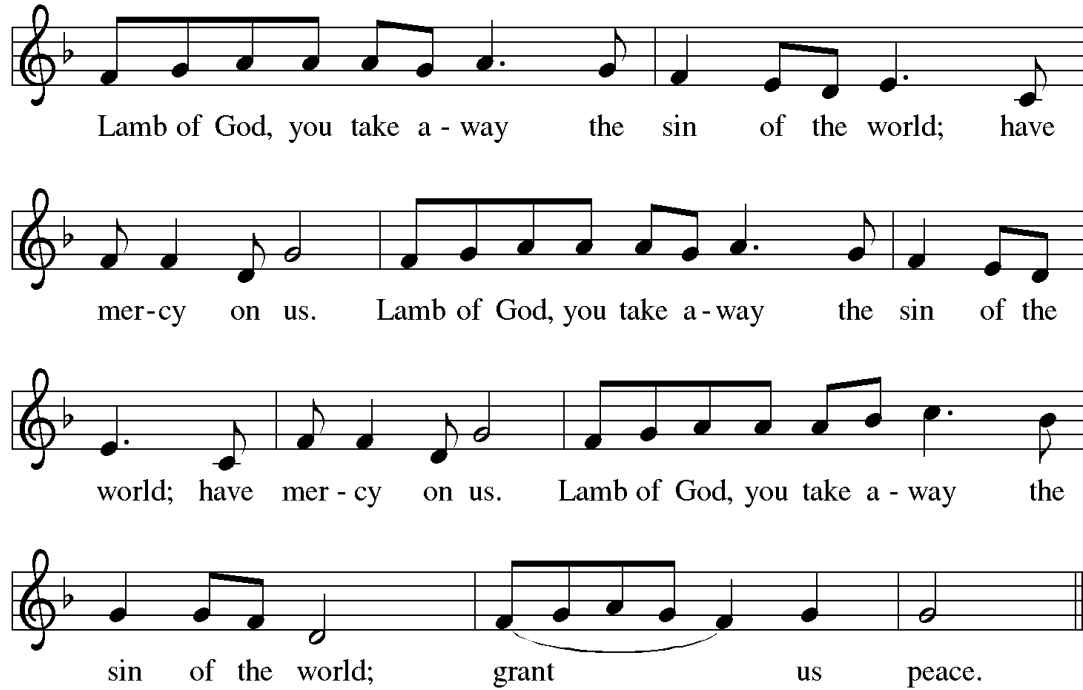
Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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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”

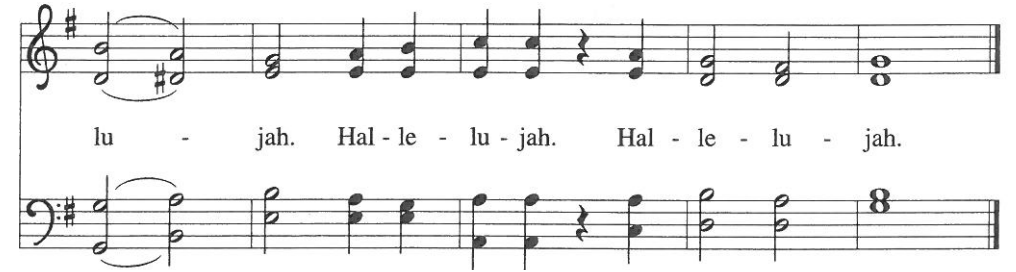


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”



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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

The 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

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Authority”

Rev John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (Red) #772

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


OFFERING PRAYER

(Please stand)

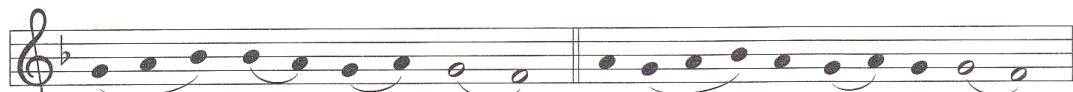
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


S 144a




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 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.**

(Please be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION