

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.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Phil Wickstrom
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis and Sherry McDonald
	9:00 a.m.	Dennis and Lori Dziesinski
		Ryan Panknin
<u>ACOLYTE</u>	5:30 p.m.	Emily Smith
	9:00 a.m.	Alex Wickstrom
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Patti Byce 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



December 2, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
December 3, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

For December, the Gratitude Lunches will be donating supplies to three animal shelters, along with cookies for those that take care of the animals. So, we are looking for donations of paper towels, bleach, dish soap, clump free cat litter, grain-free dog or cat food, Purina One dog or cat food, clean used towels or any monetary donations. Please drop them off at Nena’s office by December 11th. Call Val Urban if you have any questions, 989-356-4613.

Please note: The Nursery is available during services.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 6th – 20th. Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Pastor John will hold a Bible Study on 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Miss Nena will lead a Book Study on “66 Ways God Loves You” by Jennifer Rothschild. Please sign up.

The Soul Sisters will be gathering on Monday, December 11th at 5:30pm in the Multi-purpose room. Enjoy soup, salad and dessert for dinner. After eating we will sign Christmas cards for residents at Turning Brook Assisted Living, Besser Senior Living Community and St. Paul's homebound members. Join us for food, fun and fellowship! Please RSVP to Val at 989-916-5560 or Shirley at 989-464-6472 by December 8th.

If you would like to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. ***The deadline to take names and donations is December 15th.***

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 Monday, December 18th. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered for \$149.00. Please call 1-800-640-6307 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC. One discount ticket is still available.

Please note: The **Epiphany Dessert** event will be January 6, 2024 after the Saturday service. We need volunteers to make desserts and/or host a table. Please contact Doreen if interested, at 989-916-9172.

Gently used clothing is in room 207, across from Jackie’s office. Stop by and pick up what you can use.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 3 – 10, 2023	
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.—Commissioning Stephen Ministry Leaders; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church –10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A.– 5:00 p.m.; Christmas Bazaar Wrap-Up Meeting – 5:30 p.m.; Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Forget-Me-Nots – 19 th Hole – 12:00 p.m.; Church Decorating – 2:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team –5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Prayer Shawl – 6:00 p.m.; Boy Scouts – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles (at JJ’s) – 7:30 a.m.; Advent Soup & Service – 12:00 p.m.; Bible Study (Pastor John)– 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; Book Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m.; Property – 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 6:00 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJ’s) – 7:00a.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Air Rifle Team – 5:30 p.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:30 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.; Alpena Line Dance Club – 5:00 p.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Sunday Worship/HC – 9:00; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service & Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Bev Huard - unspecified need Irma Becker - unspecified need
Tammy Stoutenburg-unspecified need Annette Wade – medical issues Art Hoffmeyer – heart issues
Doreen Britton – unspecified need Bob Diemond – illness John Wegmeyer – health issues
Barbara Carlson–unspecified need Marty & Liz Smith – home sells Phyllis Robb- unspecified need
Dolores Libka – unspecified need David Reeves – health issues Geri Hanson – unspecified need
Eugene Brooks – health issues Bodo Hanson – health issues Sutton Badder – unspecified need
Marian Dove – unspecified need Karen Wallace–unspecified need Jake Shipman – motorcycle accident
Alisha Freese – illness ARMED SERVICES: 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 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: Lutheran Church of the Savior, Kalamazoo, Rev. Alexander Steward, Contracted

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

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>			<u>END OF OCTOBER</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (11/25)	5:30 p.m.	52	Income	25,620.92	266,579.91
Sunday (11/26)	9:00 a.m.	46	Expenses	<u>26,162.41</u>	<u>288,926.06</u>
	10:30 a.m.	<u>45</u>	Difference	(541.49)	(22,346.15)
Total		143			

The December Service Activity is Sanborn Elementary School. Items needed: Chapstick - plain non flavored, Gold Bond Healing Lotion, freezer gallon sized zip lock bags, 24 pack of small sized disposable water bottles. **Clothing** - girls underwear size 10 & 12, girls short sleeved shirts size 14/16, girls long sleeved shirts sized 14/16, boys underwear size 6, boys athletic pants sizes 6, 8, 10 & 12, Boys tennis shoes size 3 & 4.

Help is needed to decorate the church building for Christmas. We will meet on Tuesday, December 5th beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please call Donna Kensa or the office if you can help. *Thank you.*

This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 1:00 on December 6th, 13th, & 22nd. We will have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25. Come and share this time of preparation for the Christ Child. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal.

The Forget-Me-Knots will next meet for lunch on Tuesday, December 5 at noon at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann Hardesty (590-2055) to let her know if you will attend. We hope to see you there.

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.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
December 3, 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 the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. 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 "Fling Wide the Door" (Red) #259

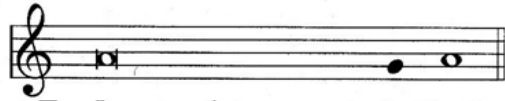
GREETING

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.

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

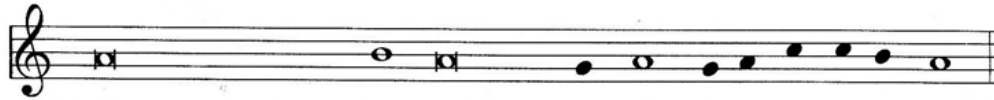
SERMON NOTES



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



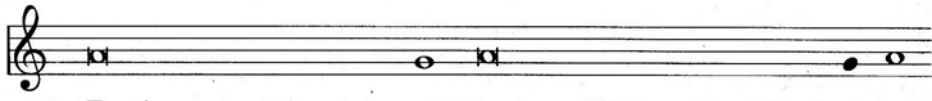
B Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



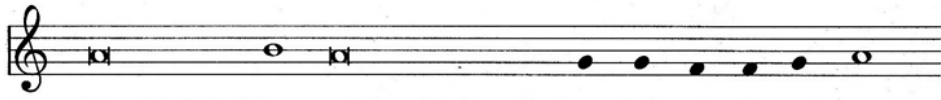
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



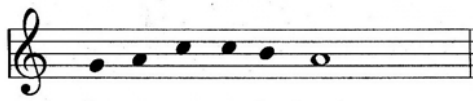
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

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: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

(Red) #715

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103345

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

Refrain
 Assisting minister
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All
 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

Light one candle.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

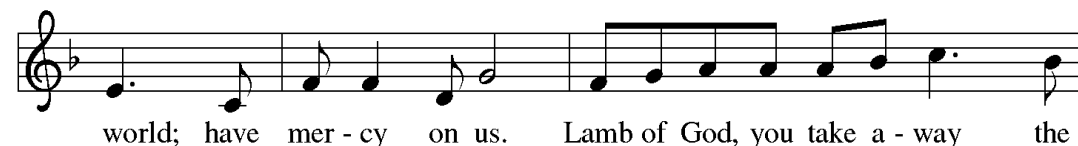
¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

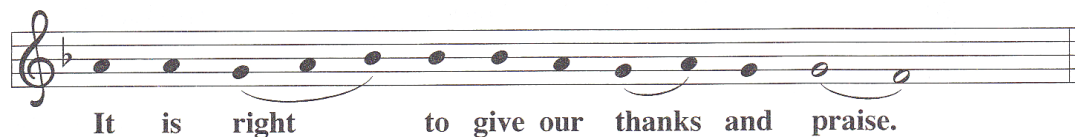
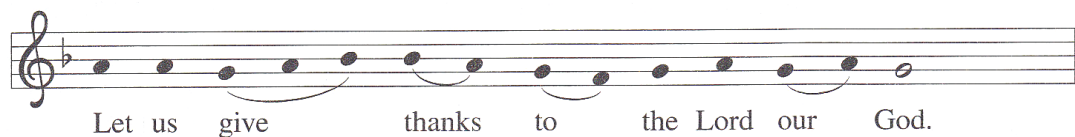
“Lamb of God”



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

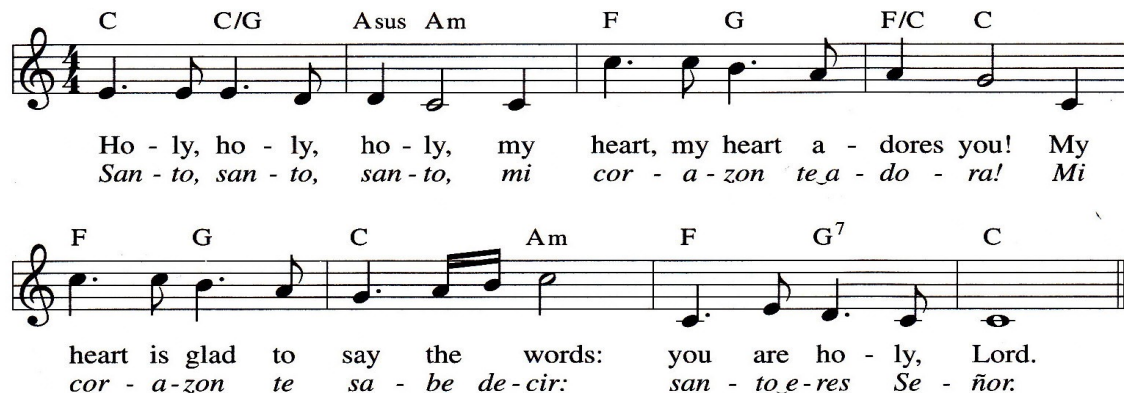
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”



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



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.**

(Pleased be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Read Responsively)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

© 2001 Lillenas Publishing Company (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); David McDonald
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com; CCLI License No. 2311887

(Please be seated)

SERMON

“What Time Is It?”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Lord, What a Morning”

(Red) #438

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.