

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.

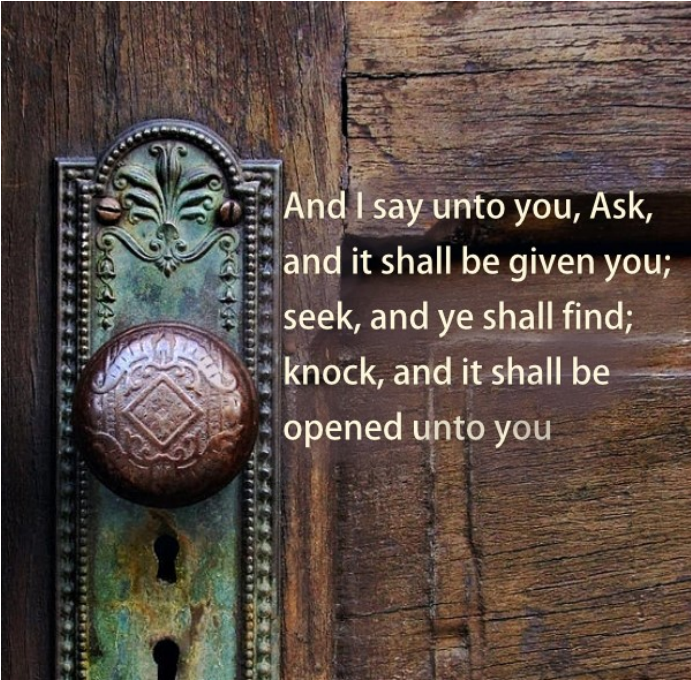
<u>PARTICIPANTS</u>		
<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cattleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Kathy Burton
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dennis & Sherry McDonald
	9:00 am.	Richard Miller, Ryan Panknin
		Cathy Kieliszewski, Tim Moggie
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Ashley MacKay, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Bonnie Duby, Nena Shipman
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Jesse & Jessica O’Neil
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Sandy Samp 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone 989-356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:  
*Worship Dynamic Ministry*



And I say unto you, Ask,  
and it shall be given you;  
seek, and ye shall find;  
knock, and it shall be  
opened unto you

July 26, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.  
July 27, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 26, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**July 27, 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**                      “You Are Holy”                      (Red) #525

**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.**

**Pastor John and Nena are inviting you to come to their house (1921 Long Rapids Road) for a fireside chat on Sunday, July 27th** 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 3 more times this summer at our beach property. The last Saturday of each month (July 26, 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.

**“Splash into God’s Word” VBS Program will be at the Starlight Beach Pavillion this Tuesday – Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** This year’s Theme is “What to do in a Drought.” We will be exploring Elijah, Joseph, and Jesus who all went through desert/drought experiences. All are welcome. Who can you invite? We also need cookie donations for the VBS nights. Please drop them off at the church this week. Call Karen Wekwert if you have any questions.

**The Soul Sisters are kayaking** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of every month this summer. So, in August we will meet next on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Sytek Park, by Bagley Street Bridge at 5:30 p.m. and all women are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call Sue Robb at 989-590-7611.

**The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY MDOT clean-up will be on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m..** We will meet at our church to view the video prior to venturing out for the clean-up at our location on M-32. Hope you can be there to help with this project! All are welcome!!!

**Reminder:** Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children’s Church! Adults can sneak some too.

**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.

**If anyone has relocated a printer from the Vestry,** please return it to the Vestry or call the church office. Thanks.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>JULY 27—AUGUST 3, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service and Children’s Church – 10:30 a.m.; MDOT Clean-Up – 12:00 p.m.; Fireside Chats – 5:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts –5:30 p.m.; The Adventure Club VBS—6:00 p.m. (at Starlight Beach Pavillion); Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous – 8:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club VBS—6:00 p.m. (at Starlight Beach Pavillion)
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Yoga 101 – 5:00 p.m.; The Adventure Club VBS—6:00 p.m. (at Starlight Beach Pavillion)
<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 Church – 10:30

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

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

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

*We also remember our homebound members.* They are Geraldine Wyman, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher. *(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: Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Pastor Kenneth Scheck.

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the Altar Care Ministry.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Matthew Michael Lewandowski, who joined our Lord in eternity January 8, 2025. His memorial service will be held on Monday, July 28, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Kim Muszynski, who joined our Lord in eternity July 13, 2025. A memorial service will be held at Bannan Funeral Home at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Dennis Diemond, who joined our Lord in eternity July 23, 2025. His funeral service will be Sunday, July 27, 2025 at McWilliams Funeral Home at 2:00 p.m.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF JUNE</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday (07/19) 5:30 p.m.	56	Income 36,225.99	177,439.06
Sunday (07/20) 9:00 a.m.	50	<u>Expenses 44,453.02</u>	<u>195,632.16</u>
10:30 a.m.	<u>35</u>	Difference (8,227.03)	(18,193.10)
Total	141		

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given in loving memory of my husband Red Crittenden from Barb Crittenden.

**Our July Service Activity is Little Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran.** Items Needed: macaroni & cheese, individual breakfast cereal, non-perishable milk, pancake mix, syrup, paper towels, toilet paper, baby foods, bread, quick easy meals for one, meat in pouches, canned meat, microwavable meals, canned fruits and vegetables, snacks for kids, peanut butter & jelly, and feminine hygiene products. Please leave your donation items on the altar and thank you so much for your generosity.

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32**

<sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.” <sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup> And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup> He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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

**PSALM: Psalm 138 (Read Responsively)**

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;  
**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**  
On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.  
**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**  
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.  
**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15**

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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 -  
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                      “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”                      (Red) #543

**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 11:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup> So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

Children’s Message/Noisy Offering

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**  
 I love to tell the story  
 'Twill be my theme in glory  
 To tell the old old story  
 Of Jesus and His love

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God of Love, O King of Peace”

(Red) #749

**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**

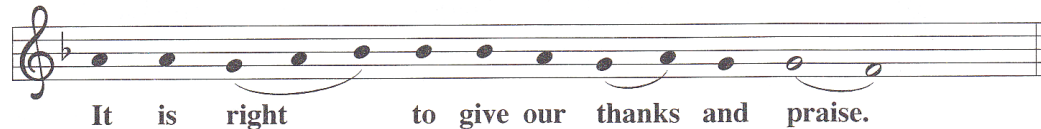
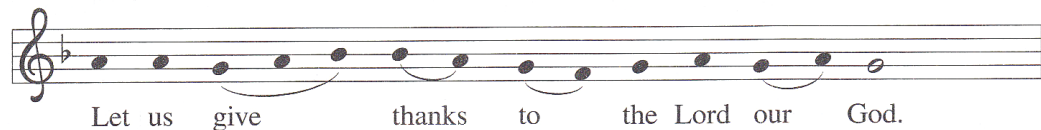
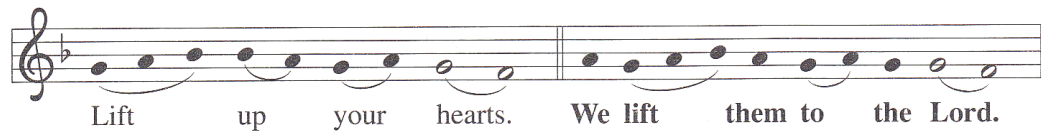
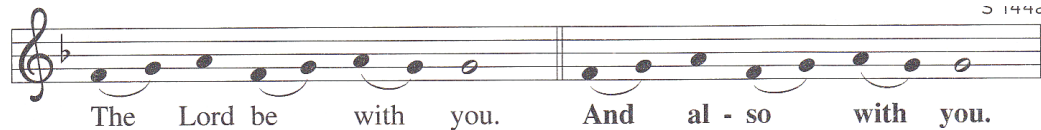
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

(Please stand)

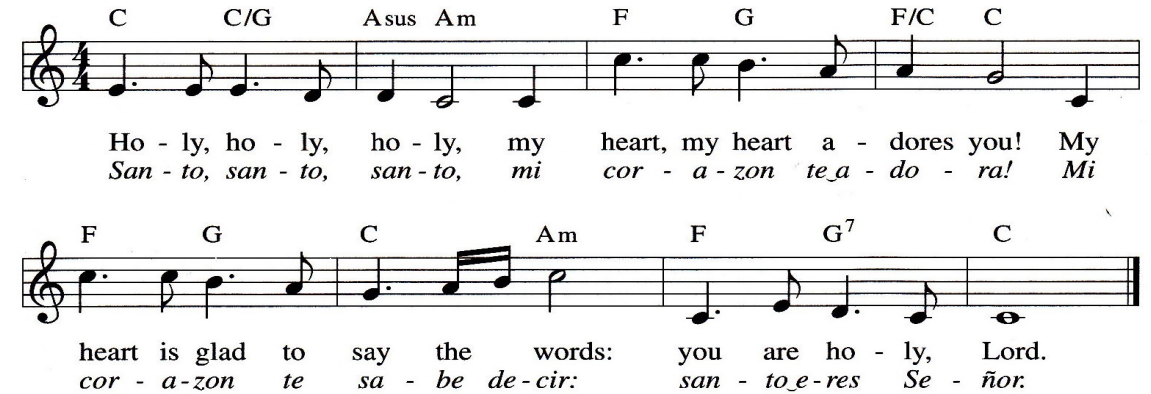
(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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**



**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”