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

MINISTERS		The People of God
ORGANIST		Marvis McNeil
CHOIR DIRECTOR		Marty Cantleberry
ASSISTING MINISTER	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
LECTOR	5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur
	9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham
FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
HEAD USHER		Roy Wekwert
USHERS & GREETERS	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce and Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 a.m.	Roy Wekwert, Barb Szczesniak Kathy Burton
CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase Kathy Burton, Amy DeRosia
LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS		
ALTAR CARE		Marty Cantleberry 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

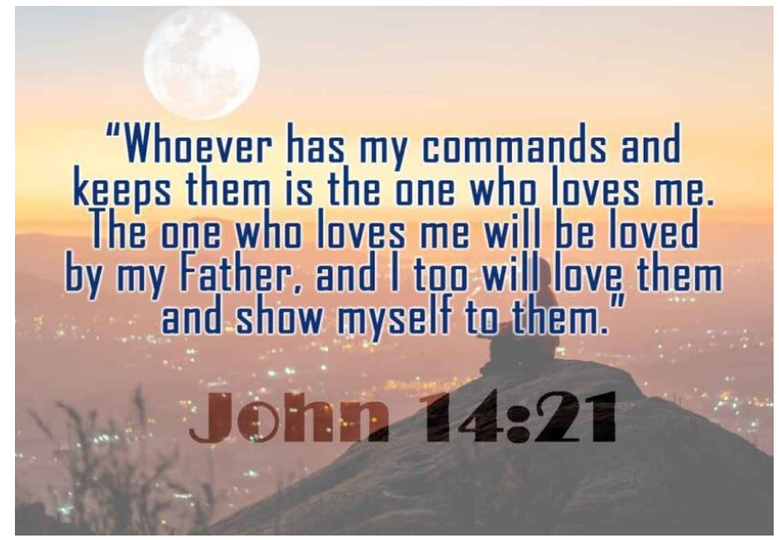
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Women's Dynamic Ministry



May 9, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
May 10, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
May 10, 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
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named). Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.
Amen.

The new campground keys for 2026 can be purchased from the office for $20. If you have an orange key or a green key, please return it to the office. Thank you.

3M is having a debris cleanup at the lake lot on Tuesday May 12th at 9:00 a.m. It is located at 8995 U.S. 23 South, right across from the Birchwood Apartments. Look for the cross marking the driveway entrance. Meet there and bring gloves, rakes, and your own water or beverages to drink.

The Church Rummage Sale dates are set for June 11th – 13th! You may start bringing in your items in stackable sealed boxes and leave them on the right side of the storage area off the dining room. Mark your boxes with a general description of what is in them. Please leave bigger stuff until the week of the rummage sale. We will again be accepting clean used clothing and shoes for our sale. If you have any questions, please call Andrea Dutcher at 989-354-3651.

We are looking for a team to help with the 4th of July Parade float this year. Please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this ministry vision/outreach.

Stephen Ministers are specifically trained lay caregivers who offer confidential, one-to-one Christian support to people experiencing a difficult time. We would like to begin another training session. Because we have no male Stephen Ministers, we are especially seeking men who feel called to provide support to other men in our congregation. If you have a compassionate heart and a desire to make a meaningful difference, Stephen Ministry may be right place for you. So, if you feel God nudging you toward this ministry, or if you would like more information, please reach out to either Sue Keyes, Shirley Jones, or any or our active Stephen Miisters.

The Scholarship Committee is grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be placed in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre Street side, there is a sign on the door to prevent confusion.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: ***MAY 10—17, 2026***	
SUN.	*Happy Mother's Day*; Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/ Children's Church/C.I.A. (Youth) - 10:30 a.m.
MON.	Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts-4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.
TUES.	Gratitude Lunches – 9:00 a.m.; 3M Camp/Picnic Ground Clean-Up - 9:00 a.m.; Recovery Yoga – 5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
WED.	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Choir Practice – 4:30 p.m.
THURS.	3M Men's Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30 p.m.; Outreach – 4:30 p.m.
FRI.	Newsletter Deadline; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
SAT.	Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service/HC – 5:30 p.m.
SUN.	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church 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:	Patricia Nelson - grief	Lee Szczesniak–medical issues
David McNeil–health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues	Cameron Elder - unspoken
Yvonne McQuarrie - health issues	Sally Wong - medical issues	Shelly Hoffmeyer – recovery
Chuck Piontkowski – medical issues	Bruce Miller – unspecified need	Tina Yeager – health issues
Travis Schmidt – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Kioni Peoples family - grief
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Greg Dziesinski- health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
June Sylvester – fractured back	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Malary Smith – unspecified
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Patricia B. - health issues	Laura Fair – fell

(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: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Rev. Tina Schultz.

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

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE				**END OF MARCH**		**YEAR TO DATE**
Saturday	05/02	5:30 a.m.	47	Income	21,747.29	70,629.12
Sunday	05/03	9:00 a.m.	51	Expenses	36,586.18	102,505.74
		10:30 a.m.	21	Difference	(14,838.89)	(31,876.62)
		Total	119			

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

The May Service Activity is Hope Shores Alliance. The *items needed* list is in the newsletter & posted on the bulletin board, in the Narthex. Leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

The Forget-Me-Nots will be attending the Sunday matinee performance of "Merry Christmas, Dear Grandpa" on Sunday, May 17 at the Alpena Civic Theater, 2:00 p.m. Please call Ann at 989-590-2055, if you would like a ticket. The tickets will be picked up on Thursday, May 14.

The North/West Lower Michigan **Synod Assembly** will be held on May 15 – 16 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, Michigan. Please be in prayer for this event and for Jared Bicker and Sue Robb, who will be attending from our church.

We will be packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry on Monday, May 18th at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

GATHERING HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King" (Red) #408

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth 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.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely
spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at
the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an
unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The
God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does
not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though
he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all
things. 26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allot-
ted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would
live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find
him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move
and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we, too, are his offspring.'
29 "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver
or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has over-
looked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to
repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteous-
ness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising
him from the dead."

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

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20 (Read Responsively)

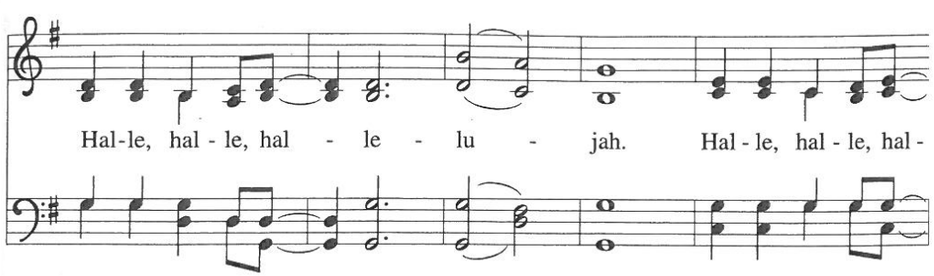
Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

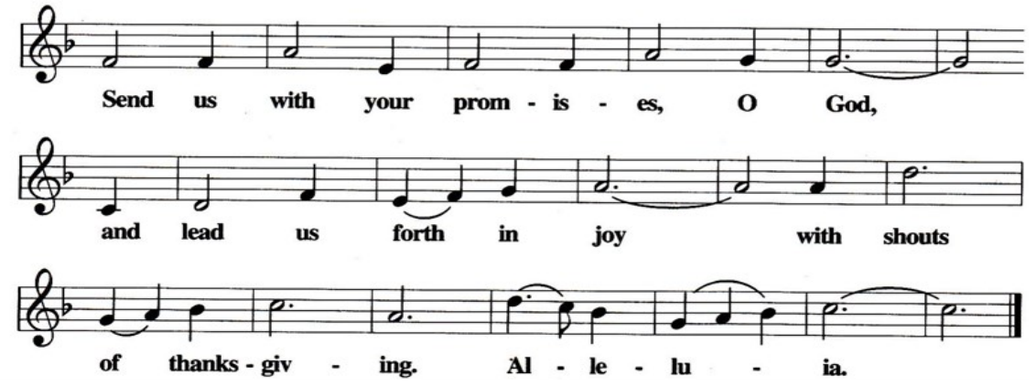
you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22 ***(Sunday 9:00 a.m. service)***
Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? [14] But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, [15] but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, [16] yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. [18] For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, [19] in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, [20] who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. [21] And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation





POST COMMUNION PRAYER
Let us pray: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (Red) #392

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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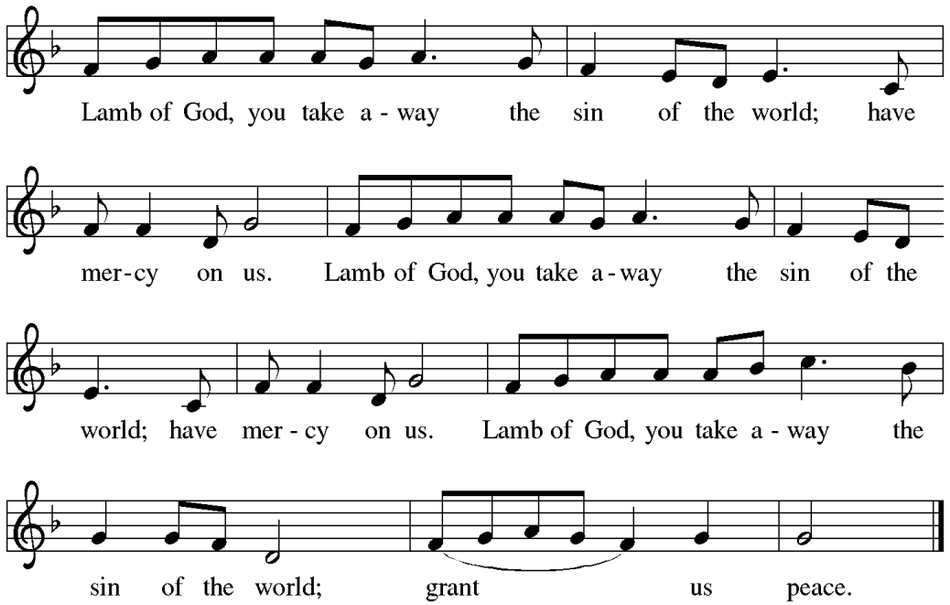
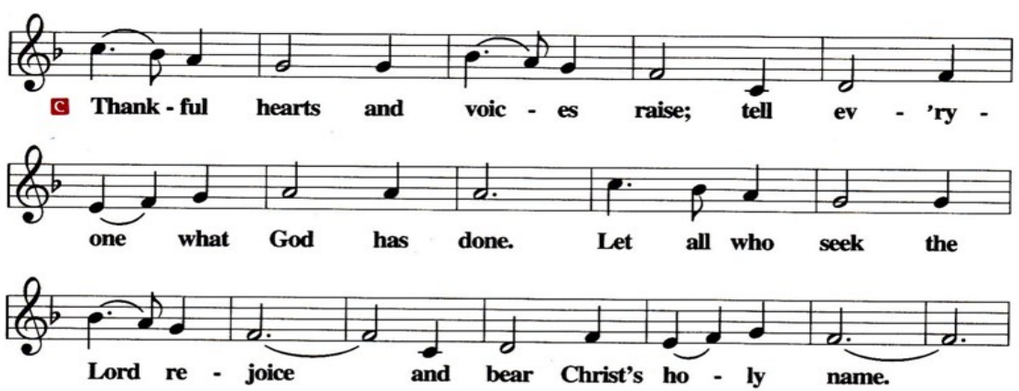
"Lamb of God"

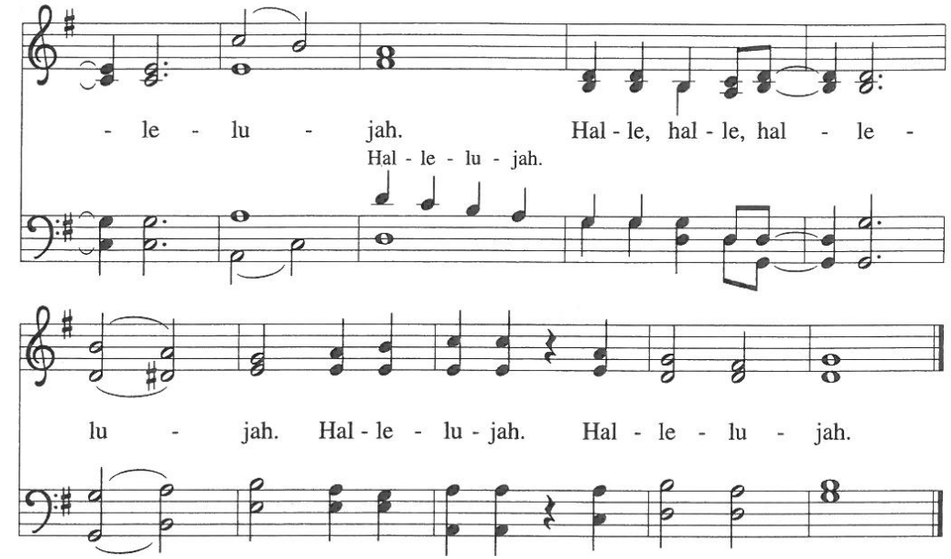


Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"





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

GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he
will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know
him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no
longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you
will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my
commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be
loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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 "Loving Obedience" Jared Bicker (*Saturday*)
"Room for Greater Things" Rev. Kevin Bacon
(*Sunday*)

(*Please stand*)

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life" (Red) #399

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.**

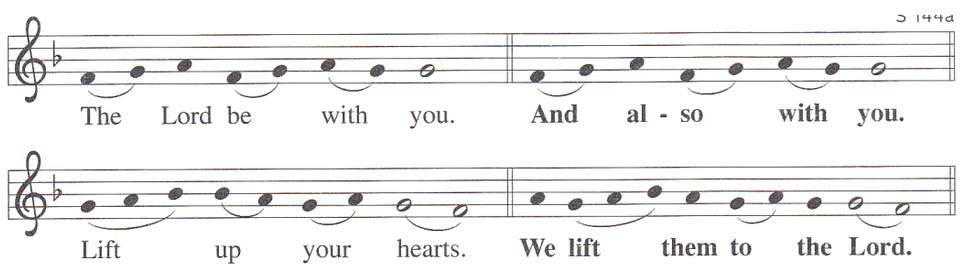
OFFERING PRAYER

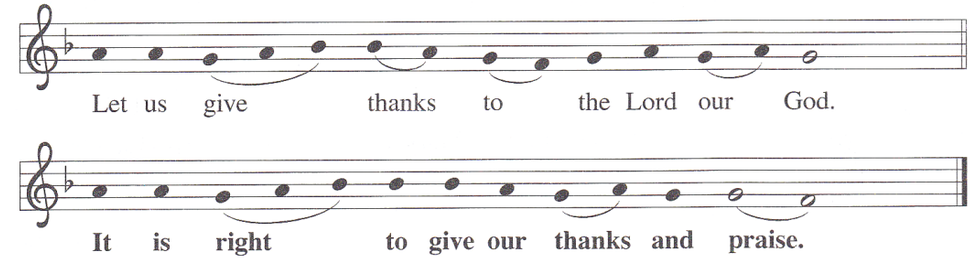
Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

(Please stand)

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

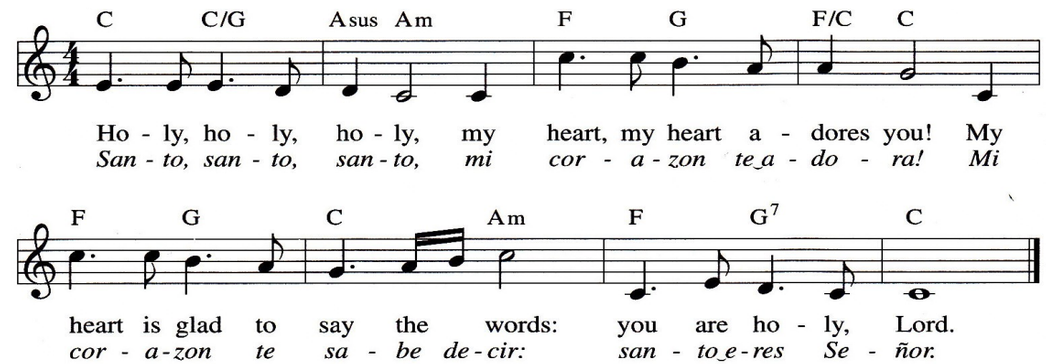
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





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



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

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 in the middle circle for those who prefer it. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.