

### 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.

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#### 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.	Dawn Grzeskowiak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Gail Atkins
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz
	9:00 a.m.	Roy Wekwert, Kathy Burton
		Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Anita Laub
	9:00 a.m.	Mary Courtney
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Jessica O'Neil, Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb
<u>LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler and Rita Chase
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Judy Dorr, Ginger Bohlen, Carol Kindt
		Sandy Samp and Laurie Stafford

*We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.*

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

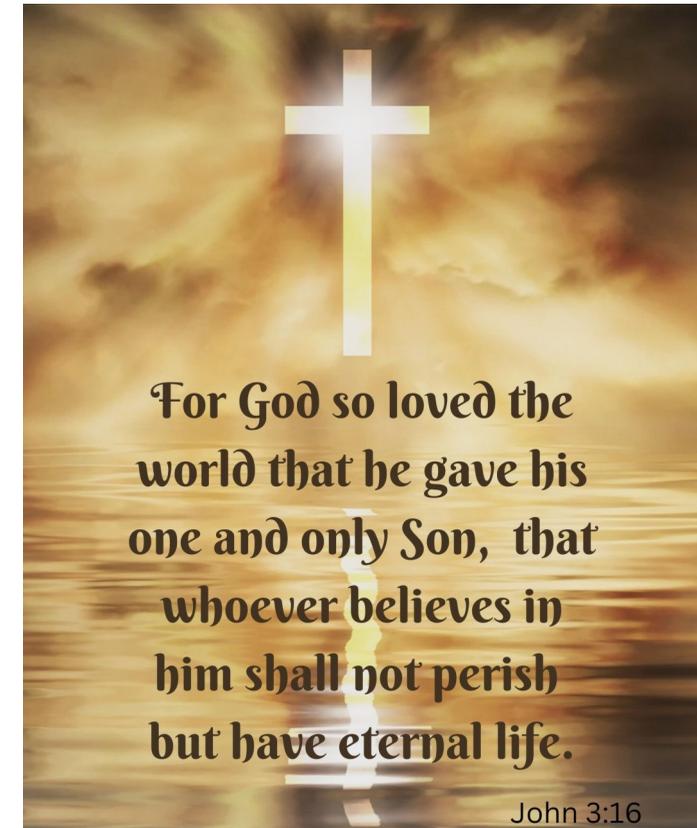
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*



*2026 Theme: "Be Our Vision Lord"*

**February 28, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**

**March 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**  
**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
**February 28, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**March 1, 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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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**

“Lift High the Cross”

(Red) #660

**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.**

The C.I.A. Youth Group will have a **Movie & Game Night** on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00–5:00 p.m., for teens in 6 – 12 grade. Come enjoy snacks, drinks, movie, foosball and ping pong! Invite a friend.

We will again be having our delicious **Baked Potato & Ice Cream Bar** on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, after the Saturday service. Come and enjoy baked potatoes with numerous choices of toppings, and ice cream with toppings. Tickets will soon be available. If you would like to donate an item to the Chinese raffle, please contact Dennis or Lori Dziesinski, 989-464-7112.

The **Forget-Me-Nots** will not meet on the first Tuesday in March. We will be attending the matinee performance at Alpena Civic Theatre on Sunday, March 15. The comedy, “Finding Gladys,” will be presented. Contact Ann Hardesty if you have any questions at 989-471-5304.

We will be **packing food for the Feeding Kids Ministry** on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the old Sunset School, 1421 Hobbs Drive, at 5:30 p.m. Call Sherry if you are willing to help or have any questions, 260-414-3613.

**Soul Sisters will meet March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in room 207 to sign Easter cards for shut-ins** at Besser Living and Turning Brook. A light snack will be served as we celebrate this opportunity to share the message of the resurrection with others in our community. Please contact Shirley 989-464-6472 or Val 989-916-5560 if you plan on attending this event. This is a Soul sisters event but ladies of St. Paul are welcome to participate.

**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 Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

**On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Adventure Club is again planning an Easter Egg Hunt** for our community within our building. We would love donations of grass for baskets, candy, and items to be included in our family friendly baskets for the raffle. These items can be dropped off at the office. *Thank you.*

<b>WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 1–8, 2026</b>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC–9:00; Fellowship–10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A.- 10:30
<u>MON.</u>	AARP Taxes– 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts–4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.; A Taste from Home – 6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; – 5:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Lent Lunch and Service – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John Bible Study – 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service/Soup Supper (Trinity Episcopal) – 5:30 p.m.; Nena’s Book Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men’s Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; C.I.A. Youth Group Movie & Game Night – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.; Set clocks ahead when going to bed – Daylight Saving Time begins tomorrow
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC–9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.

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

<b>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</b>	Laura Fair – fell	Nancy St. Onge-health issues
David McNeil–health issues	Milt Paquette – health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues	June Sylvester – fractured back	Kevin Atkinson – health issues
Kevin Atkinson – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Cheryl Daher – health issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Greg Dziesinski- health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issue
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues
Cathy Murtha – medical issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Malary Smith – unspecified	Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Alan Marwede–health issues	Mike H. - illness
Susan Crocket - grief		

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. Thanks.)*

**We remember our prayer partners** in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plainwell, Rev. Nichole Smith

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

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>END OF JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Saturday 02/21 5:30 p.m. 44	Income 21,227.40	21,227.40
Sunday 02/22 9:00 a.m. 34	<u>Expenses</u> 34,674.00	<u>34,674.00</u>
10:30 a.m. 40	Difference (13,446.60)	(13,446.60)
Total 118		

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given in celebration of Jim and Doreen Kriniak and their family anniversaries this weekend.

**ADDITIONAL FLOWERS** are given in honor of Nena for all her hard work and dedication. We love you and will miss you more than words can say from the church office volunteers.

**Please join us for the Wednesday Lent Worship Services** - March 4, 11, 18 & 25. The worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church 12:25 p.m., with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The theme is “Dust and Hope.” The Ecumenical Activity this week, March 4 will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church at 6:00. with a Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

**Pastor John and Miss Nena’s Lent Educational Opportunities run through March 25<sup>th</sup>.** Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John is holding a Book Study on “Psalms–Prayers of the Heart” by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena is leading a Book Study on “Life Source: 5 Session Course on Prayer for Lent.”

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy -five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 121 (Read Responsively)**

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that

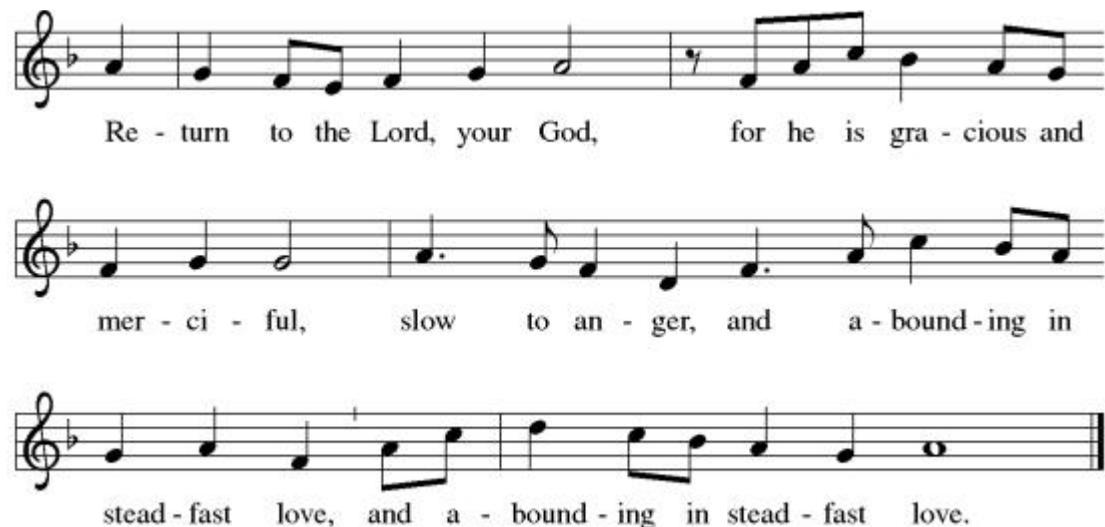
it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

SENDING HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

(Red) #803

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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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.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

“Receive our Testimony”

Pastor John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

(Red) #335

**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** Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

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

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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.  
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**

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