IT'S TIME TO GIVE TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

October 18, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

God of the nations, you are the One who causes kingdoms and nations to rise and to fall and have established every authority on earth. As I live in two kingdoms—the earthly kingdom of this country and the spiritual kingdom of Christ—guide me to honor you in all I do. Move me to honor your Fourth Commandment and also to focus on your glory in the gospel most of all. In Christ I pray. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.

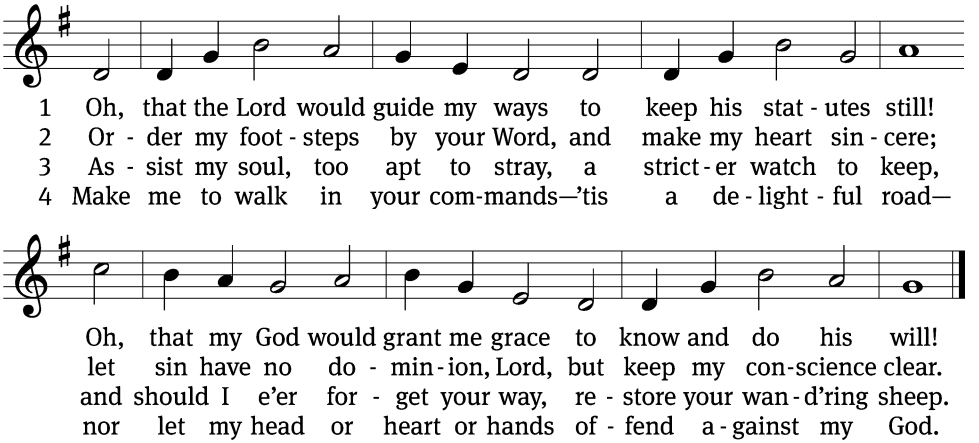
HOLY COMMUNION

Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons, it is our practice that only those who are members of St. Paul's or of a congregation within our fellowship join us at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning how you can partake of Holy Communion with us in the future, the pastor would be pleased to speak with you after the service.

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT *Christian Worship '93*

Service of Word and Sacrament is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the gospel in the Scripture readings as well as in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

OPENING HYMN *705 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord ✝ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

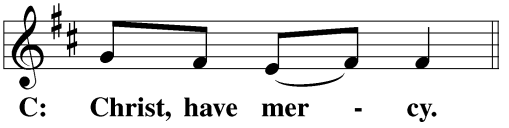
God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayer and Praise

LORD, HAVE MERCY

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



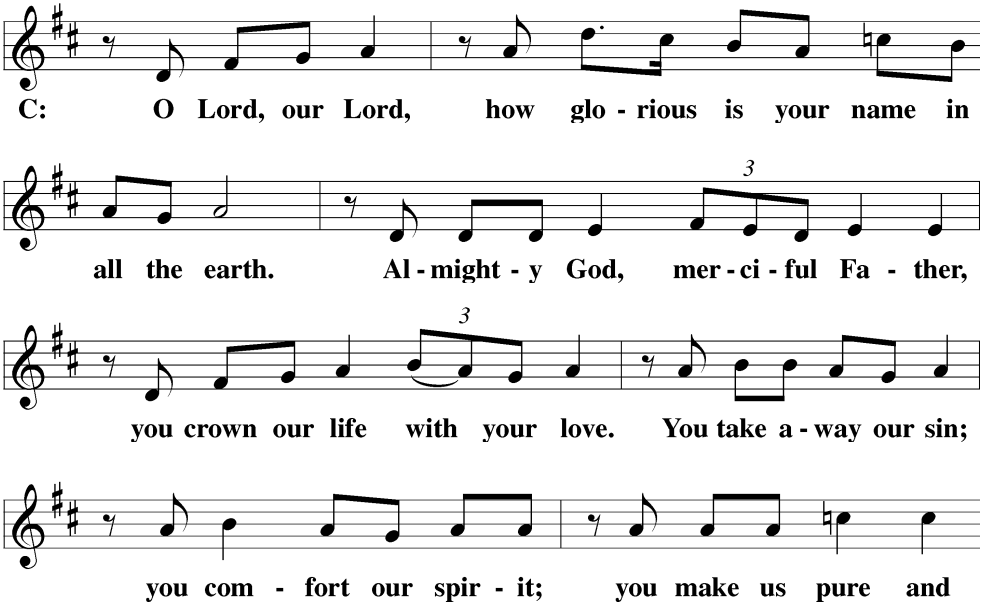
For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

(no musical intro)



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST READING *Daniel 1:3–21*

[3]The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some young
Israelite men from the royal family or from the nobility. [4]He was to choose young
men who had no blemish, who were good looking, who had insight into all kinds of
wisdom, who possessed knowledge, understanding, and learning, and who were
capable of serving in the king's palace, in order to teach them the literature and
language of the Chaldeans. [5]The king assigned them daily rations from the special
royal food and from the king's own wine. He ordered that they should be trained for
three years. At the end of training they were to serve the king. [6]In this group of
young men were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. [7]The chief of
the officials gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, Hananiah
the name Shadrak, Mishael the name Meshak, and Azariah the name Abednego.

[8]Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of
the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief
official, so that he would not have to defile himself. [9]God made the chief of the
officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. [10]Then the chief of the officials said
to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink.

Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king."

[11]Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, [12]"Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. [13]Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see." [14]So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days.

[15]At the end of ten days, their appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. [16]So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. [17]As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream.

[18]At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. [19]The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. [20]In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. [21]So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Romans 13:1–7*

[1]Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. [2]Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

[3]For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, [4]because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because

he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. [5]Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

[6]For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. [7]Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Colossians 2:10*

Alleluia!
In Christ you have been brought to fullness.
He is the head over every power and authority.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 22:15–22*

[15]Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. [16]They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because you are not swayed by appearances. [17]So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

[18]But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? [19]Show me the coin used for the tax."

They brought him a denarius.

[20]He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

[21]"Caesar's," they replied to him.

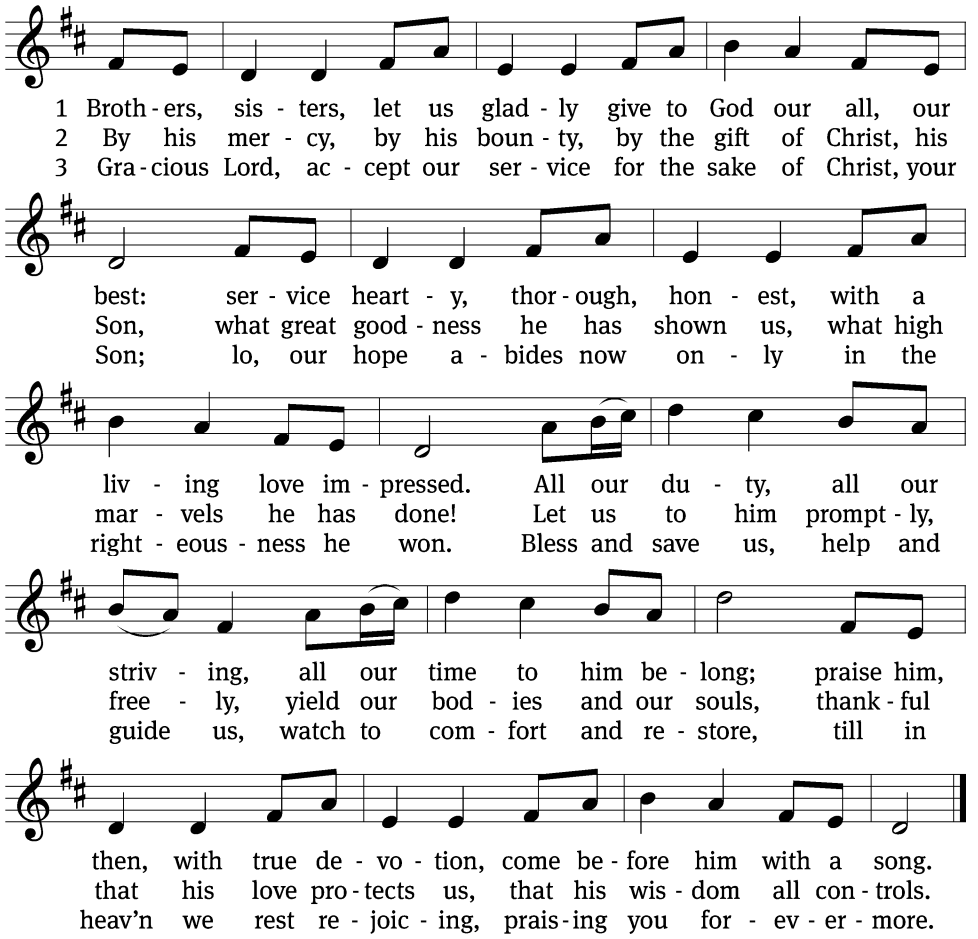
Then he said to them, “Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”

22When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *748 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly*



SERMON *Matthew 22:15–22*

The Things that Are God's

Stand

NICENE CREED

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

OFFERTORY *749 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending sts. 1, 3*

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
Text: © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889
Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The presiding minister will speak the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Stand

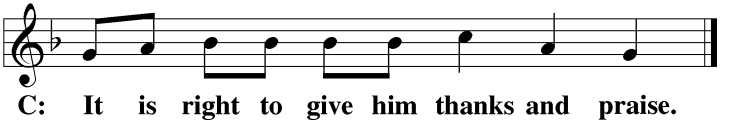
The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

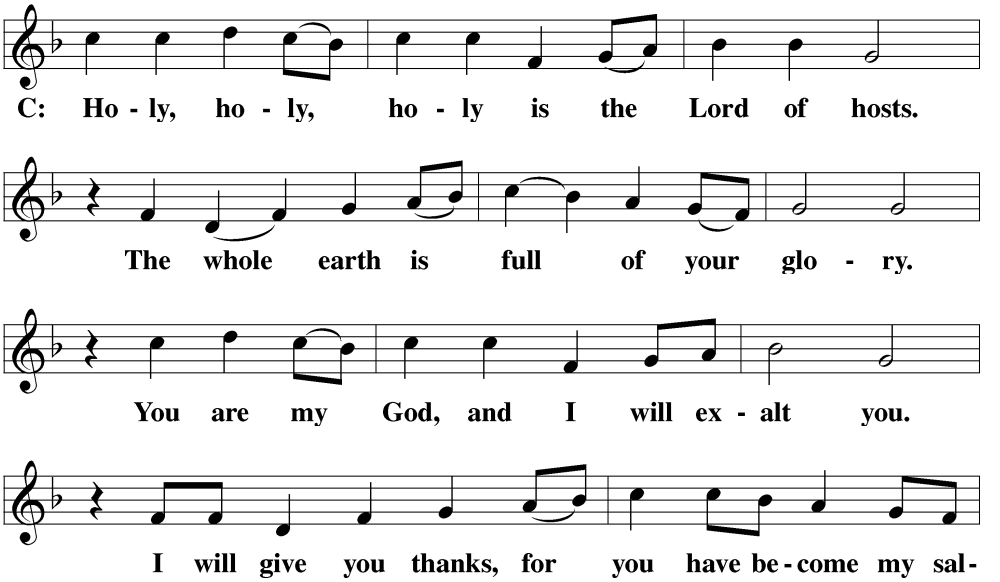
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

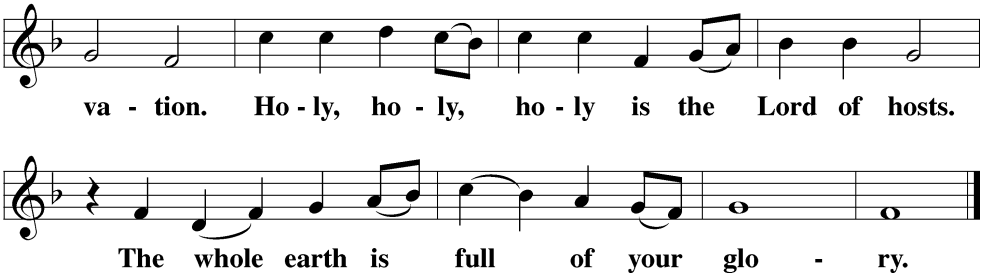


Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(no musical intro)





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

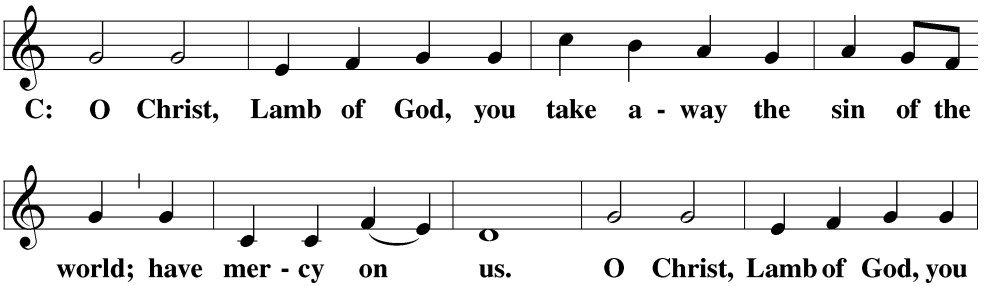
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

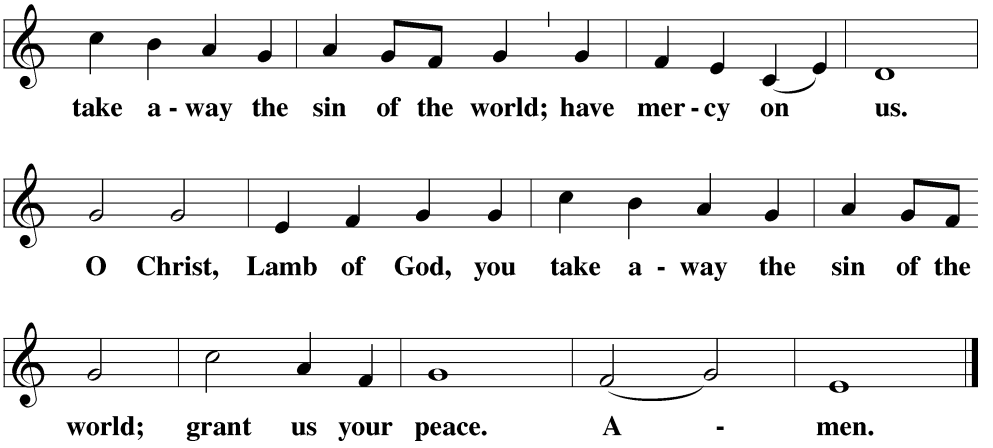
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

(no musical intro)





Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).

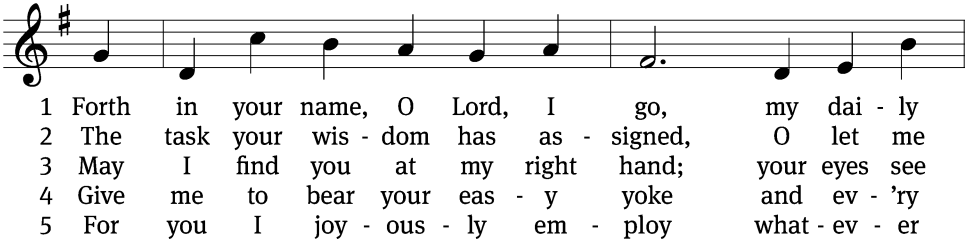
Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *775 Before You, Lord, We Bow*

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789
Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *739 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go*



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.
Tune: Barry L. Bobb, b. 1951
Text: Public domain
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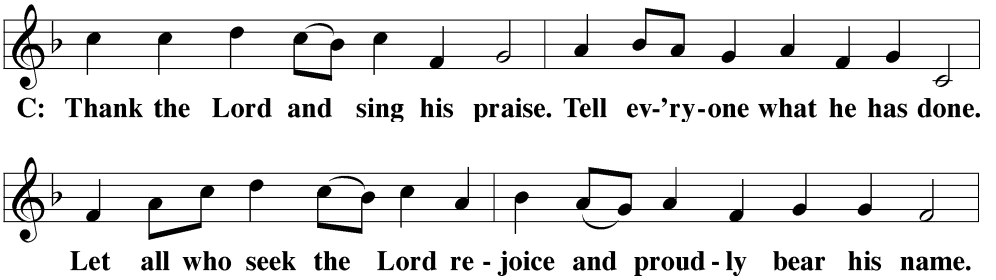
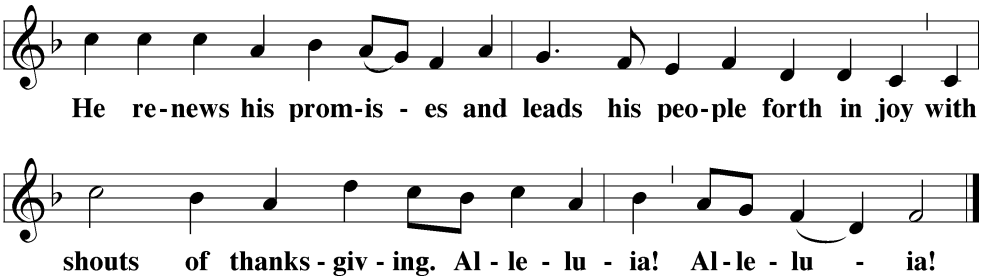
Stand

Thanksgiving

THANK THE LORD

(short musical intro)





PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

BLESSING

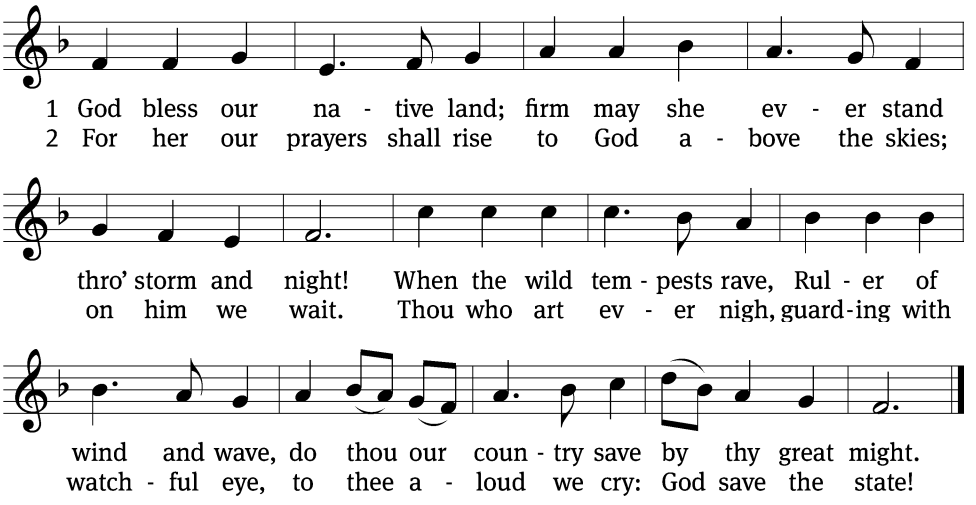
Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

774 God Bless Our Native Land



Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–1883, st. 1, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–1893
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London, c. 1740
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist Harriet Langrehr

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

We have a quarterly voters' meeting today at 11:15 am in the church basement. Please attend, as The Building Committee and Church Council will provide, for consideration by the voters, a recommendation on possible school expansion plans.

ST. PAUL'S LADIES AID SOCIETY

Purpose: To serve and carry out works of Christian love and charity with in the program of our congregation and strive to provide Devotion and Christian fellowship.

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Committees: Sunshine, Serving, Altar Flowers, Visiting, Auditing, Advent by Candlelight, Giving Tree, LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society). May take part in any or all of these committees

Members serve as hostess for monthly meetings, provide altar flowers, visit congregation members (shut-ins) and provide gifts at Christmas time, provide organ/piano checkups and repair, provide bars if needed to kitchen committee for funerals, assist with refreshments for special events held at the church, sponsor the "Giving Tree," host "Advent by Candlelight," host LWMS rallies and meetings in rotation with other WELS congregations.

We welcome everyone to come and visit a meeting to see if interested in joining our society.

SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies Aid Society will be hosting the Advent by Candlelight "Questions of Christmas" written by WELS Women's Ministry. The event is on Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement. Invite a friend and come join us for an afternoon of spiritual enrichment and fellowship by women for women. Refreshments will be served. Signup sheet will be posted in November.

DIP AND BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER

The 5th through 8th grade students are raising funds for the class trip in May to visit Springfield, Illinois, to explore and learn about the history of Abraham Lincoln. They are selling locally made dip and seasoning packets and butter braids. Please see the sign-up sheets in the lobby. If you have any questions, please reach out to Susie Johnson and Kelly Langrehr.

LIVE NATIVTY SETUP

Setup at Riverside Park starts Saturday, October 31st from 9am-5pm. Rotary provides lunch. Many hands make light work! Please come for any amount of time you can spare. Can't help that Saturday? Come down any of the following Saturdays. (Nov. 7th & 14th and 21st.) Questions? Call Pat McGuire (608-385-0178)

COUNTY FAIR BOOTH SURVEY

La Crosse County WELS churches are looking for feedback from YOU about the booth we all help man at the county fair. Please take a couple of minutes to give your input about what you like and about possible improvements. You can access the survey via the QR code to the right (also linked in the email news).

RING FOUND

A ring has been found in someone's vest. The vest was worn to church and hung up on the coat rack in the lobby, so the vest owner thinks perhaps someone put it on by accident, hung it back up, and lost their ring in the pocket in the process. If any of this by chance sounds familiar to you, please contact Pastor Groth.

PRAYERS

This week we keep in our prayers: Gary and Christa Lemke, Dan Chandler, Vivian Havens, Kelly Langrehr, Carol Hesselberg, Kathy Bottcher, Scott Haasch and Brenda Larson.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2026 Weekly Budget: $11,428.44 Budget to Date: $468,566.04
Received Last Week: $11,236.42 Rec'd to Date: $373,224.27

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 168 Online Viewers: 60 10:00 am: 76 Total: 304
Sunday Bible Study: 52 Sunday School: 8 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 30

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	11:15 am	**Quarterly Voters' Meeting**
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
NEXT TUESDAY	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
	7:00 pm	Bible Study

WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

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stpaulsbangor.com

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BANGOR, WI