IT'S TIME TO STAY STEADFAST

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 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

Mighty Lord, you have given me your glorious, powerful Word to give and sustain spiritual life through the gospel message of Christ. Forgive me for the times my faith caves in to the world and when I don't regard your Word as the holy gift that it is. Restore me through Christ, strengthen my faith and my resolve, and help me cling to the Word and keep it pure from all false teaching. In Jesus 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.

SETTING ONE *p.154*

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CHOIR *How Firm a Foundation*

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ┼ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

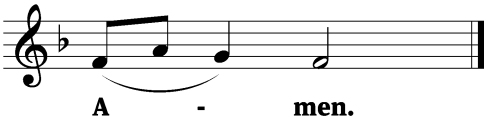
In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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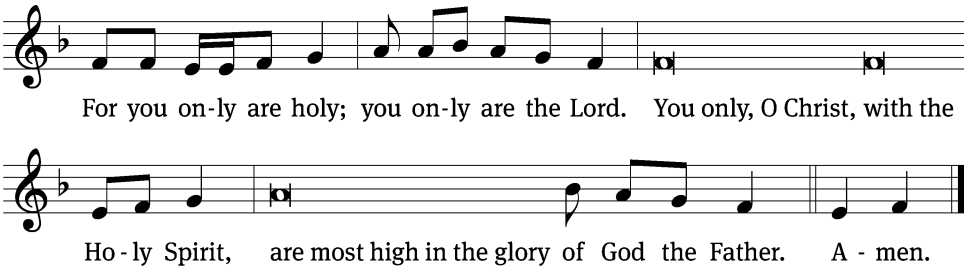
GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; 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

FIRST READING *Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23*

[10]Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He

continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. [11]Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

[12]They then went and asked the king about the decree. "Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?"

The king answered, "Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked."

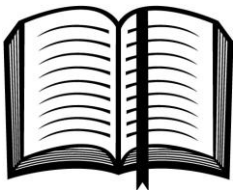
[16]Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." [17]A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel's situation. [18]Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

[19]At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. [20]As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

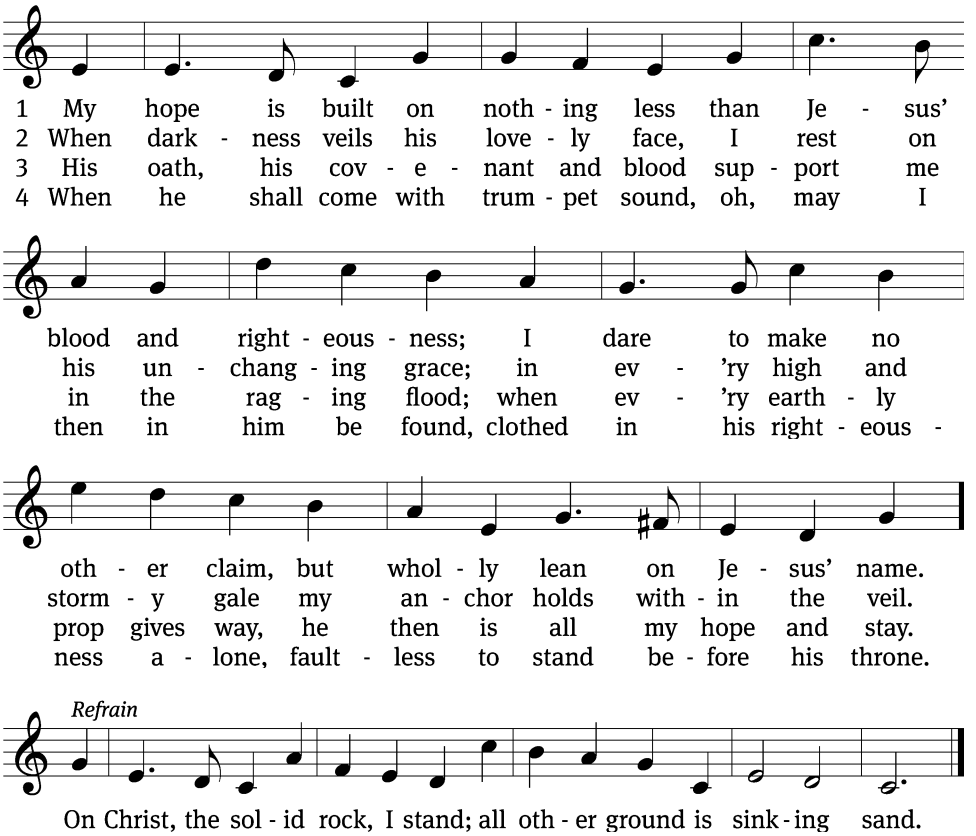
[21]Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! [22]My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

[23]Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



HYMN *563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*



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Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt.
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SECOND READING *Romans 3:19–28*

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. [20]For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

[21]But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. [22]This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, [23]because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [24]and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. [26]He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

[27]What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. [28]For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 12:32*

Alleluia!
Do not be afraid, little flock,
for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 10:16–23*

[16]"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. [17]Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. [18]You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. [19]Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour.

[20]In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

[21]"Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. [22]You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. [23]And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

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

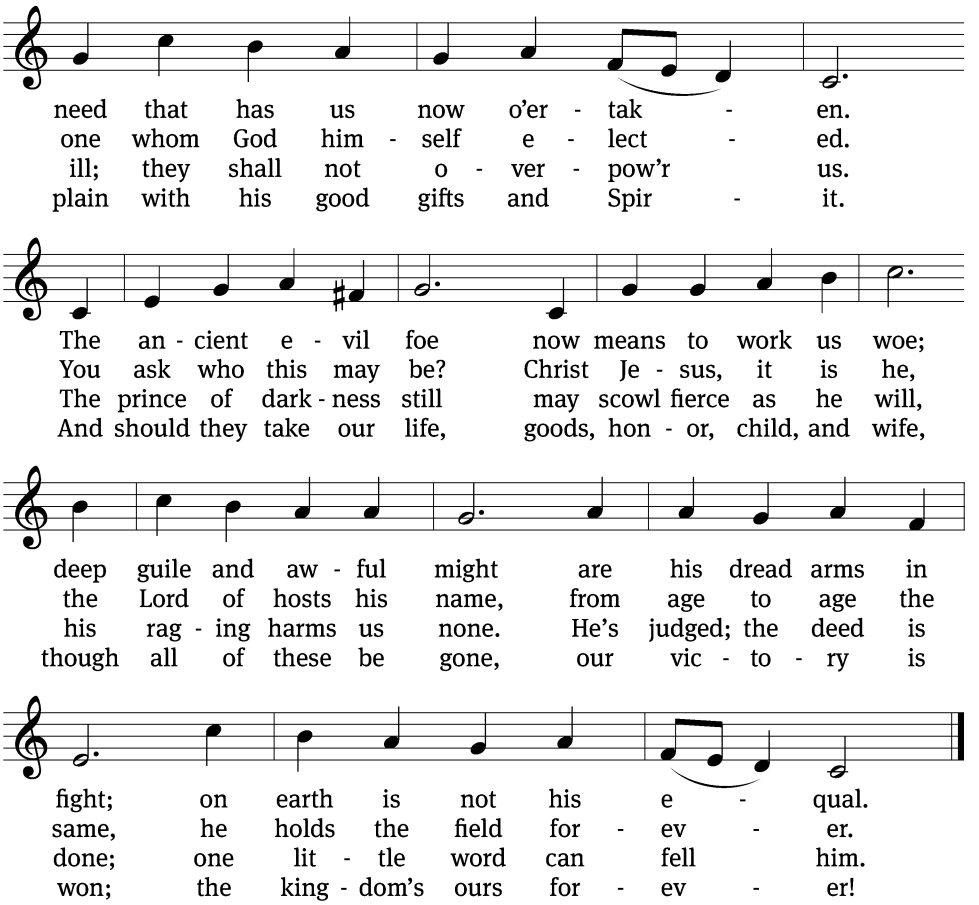
Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

864 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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SERMON *Matthew 10:16–23*

"Thanks for the Comfort!"

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

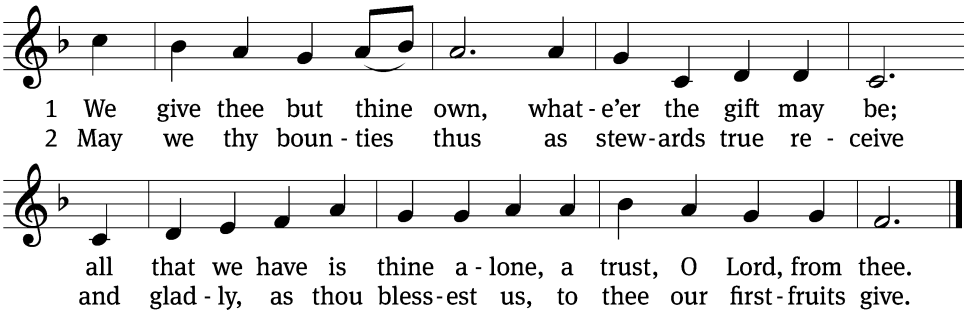
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

OFFERTORY *750 We Give Thee but Thine Own*



RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP *(10:00 am)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus.
When guilt grieves our consciences and shame crushes our confidence, use your Word to encourage and comfort our souls with the good news of your unconditional love.

Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly in the classroom, the workplace, the community, and to everyone we encounter who needs to hear the truth of your Word.
Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses. Comfort the sick and suffering, the depressed and lonely, those who are persecuted and ridiculed for their faith, and all others who need the encouragement of your love.
Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

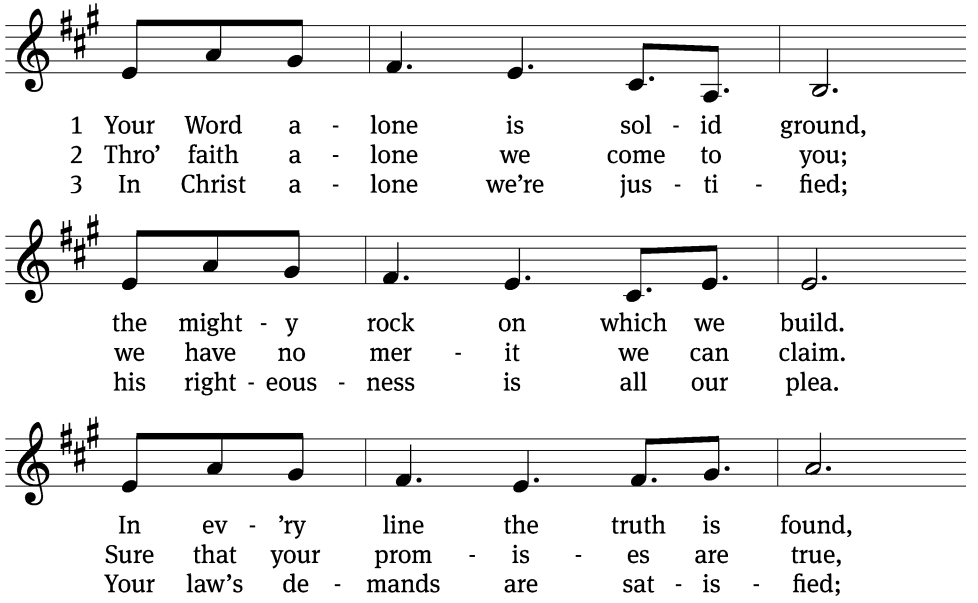
Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

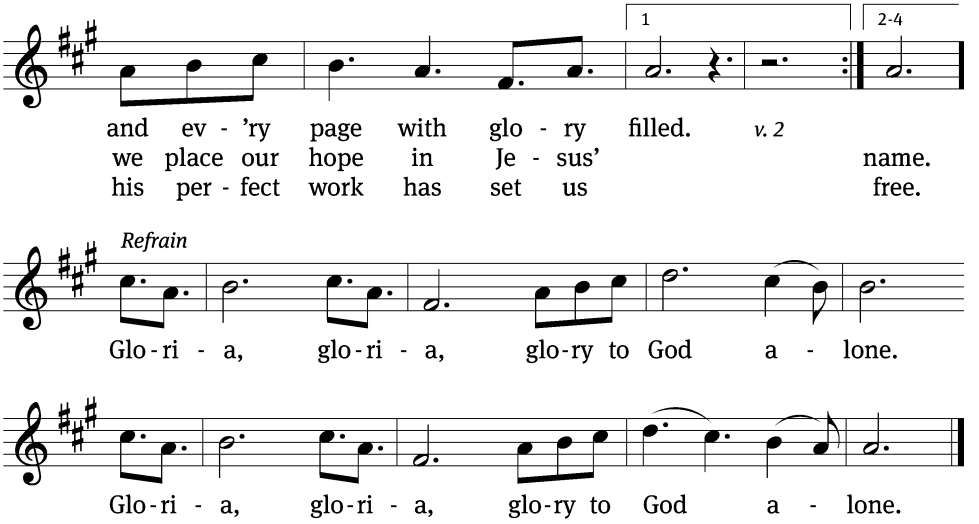
Silent prayer

Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Hear the public prayers we have spoken with our lips and the personal prayers we offer to you in our hearts, and answer them according to your gracious will. Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure in the plans and purposes you have for our lives;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN *877 Reformation Song (incl. v.5)*

First refrain comes after v.2. Join as comfortable.





4 By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)

5 And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
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Stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

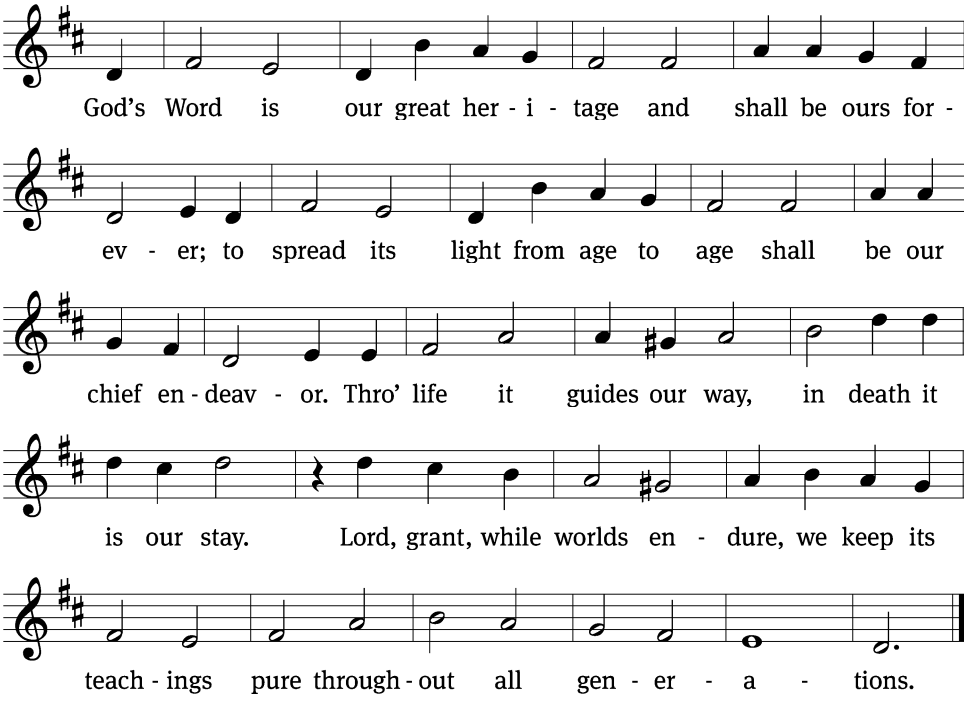
BLESSING

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.
Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist Harriet Langrehr

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We joyously welcome the following brothers and sisters in Christ into our church family today: Michele, Caydence, and Camdyn Burrows; Gretchen Cortez; Nancy Gilbertson; Tim and Lisa Gray; Laura Haasch; Derek Johnson; Aaron Kleemann; and Jolene Wieman. We praise our Savior for leading them to desire to unite with us in fellowship, worship, and gospel ministry!

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.

CRADLED IN CHRIST

Join our sister congregation at St. Paul's in Onalaska on Sunday, October 25th, at 6:30 pm for a special prayer service. The loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death can leave a deep and lasting ache. Sometimes grief resurfaces even years later. St. Paul's in Onalaska is hosting *Cradled in Christ: A Mother's Evening of Remembrance*, a special prayer service offering comfort, encouragement, and hope to women who have experienced these difficult losses. The evening will include prayer, Bible readings, songs of comfort and hope, and a brief message centered on God's promises to those who grieve. There will be time to remember these precious lives and the children we carry in our hearts, as well as an opportunity—if desired—to connect with other women who have experienced similar seasons of loss. Whether your loss was recent or many years ago, you are warmly invited. Come as you are, and allow yourself an evening to remember, to grieve, and to be reminded that you are cradled in Christ's loving care. For more information, please contact Wendy at wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org.

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)

NATIONAL ONLINE TEEN BIBLE STUDY

Join other teens live online on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm (Central). Life gets out of balance. It changes without warning and often steals our confidence. The fear of the unknown and fearing failure can freeze us in worry, even in despair. There's an incredible and lesser-known narrative in the Bible that speaks peace into this reoccurring life lesson. It is Gideon's story of failing, life shifting, and God's seemingly impossible ask on this broken man. Your loving Lord is in the business of asking what appears impossible, so that we know what truly is: joyful confidence and resiliency. Where do you need balance back in your life? Find out more at wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/.

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: $8,019.42 Rec'd to Date: $370,007.27

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 118 Online Viewers: 47 10:00 am: 106 Total: 271
Sunday Bible Study: 40 Sunday School: 15 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 35

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
TUESDAY	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
THURSDAY	2:00 pm	Ladies Aid Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion

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