

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HARVEST HOME

SEPTEMBER 16/17, 2023



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers
474 Yalick Road
PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-675-3859; email: stpaul@epix.net
Website: www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes
Jean Grube, Youth Choir Director

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:30 am till Noon

TODAY'S WORSHIP

FAMILY OF CHRIST, grace and peace be with you as we gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

IN TODAY'S SECOND READING Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

WORSHIP BEGINS in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

THE BLUE WELCOME PAD in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number). Please take a moment to complete it.

LEAVING THE SANCTUARY during worship? Please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently.

TURNING OFF cell phone and other electronic devices is greatly appreciated.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for September 23/24: Jonah 3:10—4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16.

SPONSORSHIPS THIS WEEK: Sanctuary Flowers are given to the Glory of God, in thankfulness of his bounty, by the Social Ministry Committee.

GATHERING

PLEASE NOTE: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.

PRELUDE

A Song of Thanksgiving on
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

C. Morton Bailey

BELL, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgement on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN # 693 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield its increase, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON [Sunday]

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the

altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the

surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:24-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 695 *As Saints of Old*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, the creation, and the needs of our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit and please sign the blue pew pads for attendance.

MEAL

ANTHEM

Autumn Carol

Russell Schulz-Widmar

Senior Choir and Chimes

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

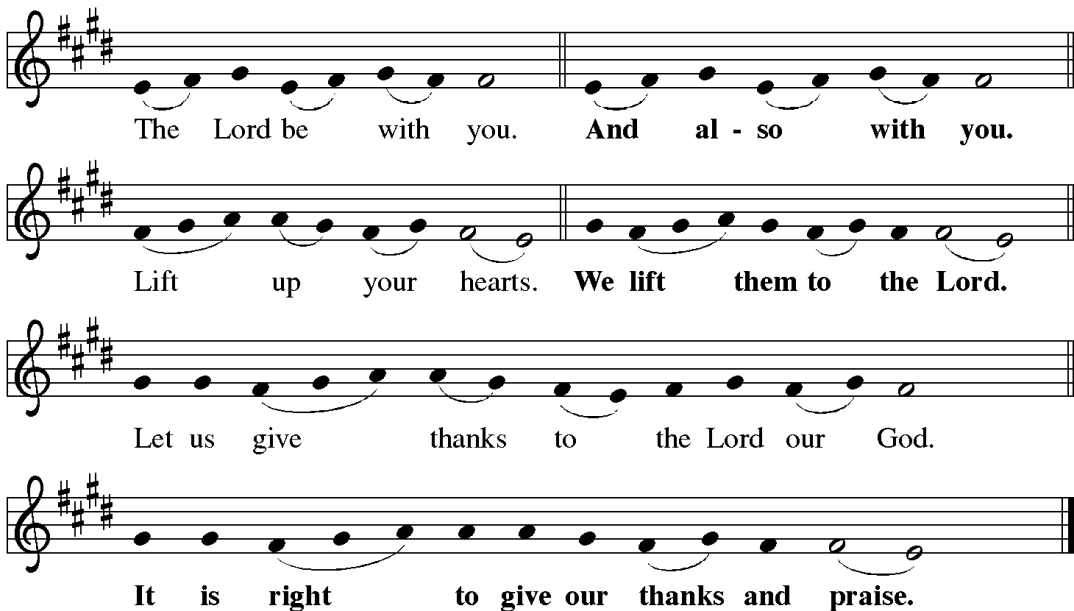
The assisting minister leads the prayer.

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.



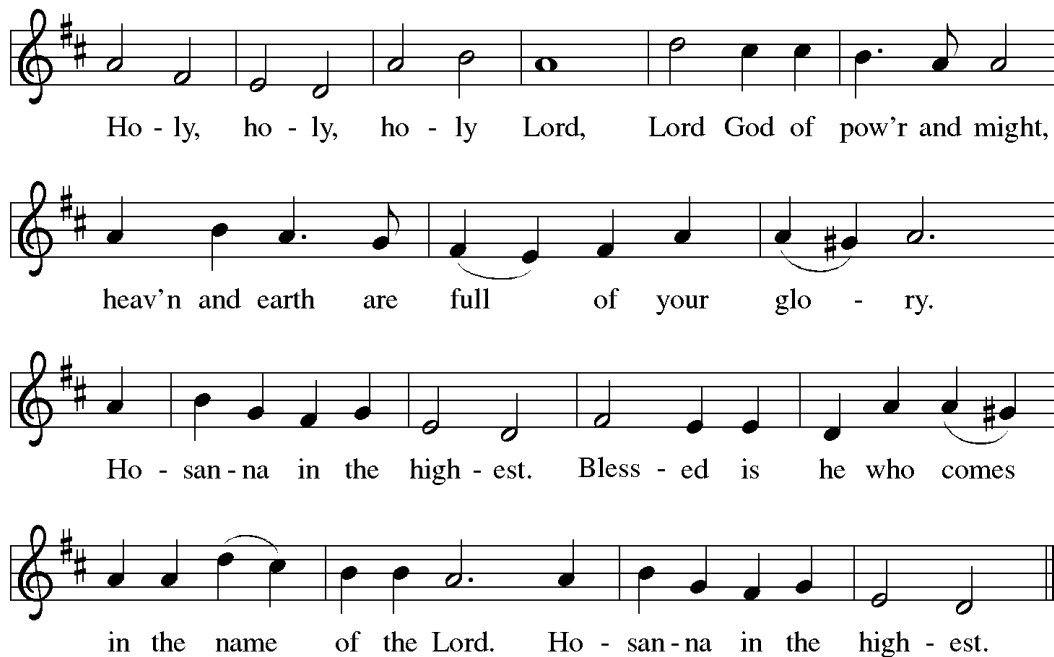
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

The presiding minister continues with the Proper Preface for the day, ending, "we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup...all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

The bread is broken for the communion.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step. The communion ministers will move around the predella step counter-clockwise communing you in turn. The person seated closest to the ambo comes to the first place by the ambo, and those behind and to their right follow in turn by taking the next open position, filling the predella step around the table. We progress from that seat section counter-clockwise through each seat section in turn to the choir, who communes last. When you have communed, return to your seat, and the next person can take that position. Remain seated to sing the hymns while you wait your turn.

We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Prefilled glasses of juice are available for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine.

If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

During the distribution, Lamb of God and additional hymns are sung:



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, grant us peace.

HYMNS

#691 (vs. 1-2) *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

#689 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

When all have communed and the minsters have communed, the table is re-dressed and the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minster leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Send us, strengthened by this food, to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SENDING PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 508 *As Rain from the Clouds*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

As Rain from the Clouds

Aaron David Miller



SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters:	Ellen Babuscak
Acolyte:	Volunteer Needed
Assisting Minister:	Jean Grube
Lector:	Trish Brosious
Saturday Altar Set Up:	Cookie Fetterman
Sunday Altar:	Martha Kush
Communion Bread:	Jodi Sprau
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. PAUL'S BROTHERHOOD wishes to thank everyone who helped in any way with their Roast Beef Dinner. It is a week-long project, starting with ordering supplies and ending with the final cleanup. Nothing could be accomplished without all the amazing help received. Thank you all for your support!

ST. PAUL'S WILL HOLD its annual Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 am. In advance of that service, our Social Ministry Committee will be collecting items requested by the SPCA: clumping cat litter, cat treats, medium-sized Milk Bones dog treats, paper towels, toilet paper, tall kitchen drawstring trash bags, dish sponges, dish soap and bleach. Please do not bring any types of dog or cat food, since a major pet food manufacturer is providing all the food needed. If you have any questions, please contact Ray Mancke at ramancke@aol.com.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE SCHEDULED – St. Paul's Dorcas Society will be sponsoring their annual fall rummage sale on Friday, October 6 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and 5:00 – 7:00 pm and also Saturday, October 7 from 8:00 am till Noon (Bag Day). Available for sale will be good clean, useable clothes, household items, dishes, pots & pans, holiday decorations, jewelry, books, games, and much more! The building will be open the following days/ times for donation drop-off:

Monday, October 2	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 3	9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, October 4	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday, October 5	9:00 am to 2:00 pm (donations will not be accepted after 2:00 pm so Dorcas members may have time to price items).

Anyone (men and women) can assist during the week with setting up tables, unloading cars, displaying and/or pricing items to be sold (you don't need to be a member of Dorcas to help). Please **DO NOT BRING** televisions, encyclopedias, cribs/strollers, artificial Christmas trees, old telephones, VCR tapes. All bakers of St. Paul's are asked to donate homemade baked goods for the Bake Sale; goodies should be brought to the church by 1:00 pm on Thursday, October 5 so they may be packaged and priced.

DEADLINE for the October issue of the "GOOD NEWS" is Sunday, September 17. Submissions for the weekly bulletins are due in the church office by Noon on Thursdays.

THE WORD IN SEASON, a daily devotional booklet, for October, November and December is available in the Informational Kiosk in the Narthex; please feel free to take one.

CALLING ALL chimers and singers! Summer recess is over and rehearsals for chimes and choir have started. Everyone is welcome to join in praising God through music; Senior Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7:00 pm, and the Chime Choir rehearses every Sunday at 8:30 am. Come join us!

OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE is sponsoring Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Day on October 18. Special "shopping passes" will be sold for \$5.00 which you will be able to use for 25% off on all purchases that day (in store only). St Paul's will keep 100% of all shopping passes sold; proceeds will benefit our General Fund. Give the passes as gifts, use for yourself, start Christmas shopping early! You can also help by selling them to family members, friends, neighbors. Watch for a display table in the Narthex where passes may be purchased.

THE WORSHIP LEADERS sign-up sheets for October and November are posted on the table in the Narthex; please take a moment following worship to sign-up for one of the open positions.

PASTOR GRUBE will be holding a training session for Acolytes today following Sunday School at 11:45 am and also a session for Assisting Ministers on Sunday, September 24 at 10:45 am – anyone interested in being either an Acolyte or an Assisting Minister is welcome and encouraged to attend.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today:	8:30 am	Chime Practice
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	11:45 am	Acolyte Training
	5:30 pm	Cub Scout Meeting
	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Meeting
		Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday:	10:30 am	Bible Study
Wednesday:	3 till 6 pm	Labyrinth Walk
Thursday:	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday:	5:30 pm	Worship
Next Sunday:	8:30 am	Chime Practice
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Assisting Minister Training

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregation of Faith United, Nescopeck and St. Peter, Hughestown.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Hope Beisel, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Cindy Eck, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Kay Hometchko, Robert Kline, Ann Sabol, Bill Smith, Karen Tomalis, Mark and Mary Walters, Joan Williams, Justin Yost.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Dick Armbrust, Hank Banaszek, Gwen Bartolacci, Bob Bell, Robert Binger, Marlene Blannett, Judy C., Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Joan Devens, David Estock, Ron and Candyce Fike, Amyjo Garbus, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Mimi Johnson, Lorraine Jones, Frank K., Bradley Kessler, Gerti Latona, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Rob Merritt, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Febe Quintanar, Sandy Rebo, Donna Reistetter, Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Gina Sigler, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Wyatt Wilson, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Bonnie, Diane, Gilbert & Carol, Kelley, Cindy, Paul, Freyda, Linda, Kim (no last names given).