

ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9/10, 2025

**“STAY DRESSED
FOR ACTION AND
KEEP YOUR
LAMPS BURNING.”**

LUKE 12:35. ESV



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME - Good morning, and welcome! God has invited us here; we are at home in his presence. Let us worship.

JESUS SAYS, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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 August 16/17: Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56.

IF YOU'D LIKE someone’s name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the Narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week’s prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person’s name during the intercessory prayers.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* Johan Gottfried Walther

BELL, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able to face the font for the confession.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Heal us, break our bonds, and lead us on the path of life. Amen.

We belong to Christ Jesus and we are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation.

Amen.

Stand as you are able for the hymn.

GATHERING HYMN # 436 *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

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.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you whenever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

A reading from Genesis:

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22

Spoken responsively by whole verse by the lector and congregation.

¹²Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to ¹ be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks ¹ down from heaven,
and sees all ¹ humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly en- ¹ throned and watches
all who dwell ¹ on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions ¹ all their hearts
and observes ¹ all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size ¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain ¹ hope for victory;
despite its great strength it ¹ cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear ¹ you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your ¹ steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their ¹ lives from death,
and to keep them alive in ¹ time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for ¹ you, O LORD,
our helper ¹ and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- ¹ es in you,
for in your holy name we ¹ put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, ¹ be upon us,
even as we place our ¹ hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

A reading from Hebrews:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the

worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible...By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY #802 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, let us pray for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

MEAL

OFFERTORY #182

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



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



bless - 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.

Let us pray.

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

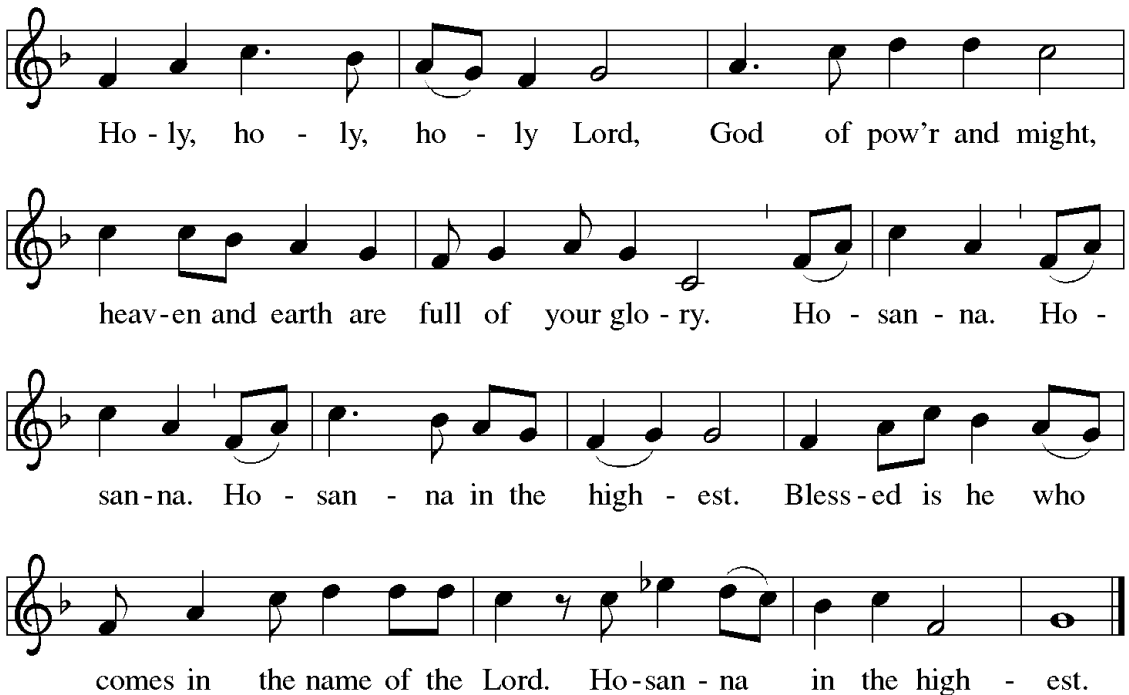
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . .

Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff contains 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' and ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Father,...both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

The Kingdom of God is set before you. Come, eat, and rejoice.

The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word, The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step beginning with the person seated closest to the ambo. The communion ministers will come to you, beginning with the bread. Then, take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice or a prefilled glass of juice for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine. When you have communed, return to your seat by the opposite end.

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. 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 is 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.

Stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Loving God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.

BLESSING

The love of God abounds in us; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fills our hearts; and the life of the Spirit + blesses us and gives us peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

J. Bert Carlson

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SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Greeter: | Ellen Babuscak |
| Acolyte: | Volunteer needed |
| Assisting Minister: | Keith Brosious |
| Lector: | Gail Ide |
| Communion Bread: | Joan Williams |
| Saturday Altar Set Up: | Cookie Fetterman |
| Sunday Altar Clean Up: | Martha Kush |
| Minister of Technology: | Marissa Miller |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God, with prayers for Geri Williams, by Martha Kush.

WE THANK Keith Brosious for serving as our worship leader this weekend while Pastor Grube is away.

THE YELLOW ROSE is given in Honor of Andrew Sabol's 80th Birthday, by the Social Ministry Committee.

A BROTHERHOOD MEETING has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 pm; topic for discussion will be the September 13th Roast Beef Dinner. All men of St. Paul's are welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE RETIRED RAMBLERS will meet for breakfast at the Lakeside Skillet in Harvey's Lake on Thursday, August 14, at 8:32 am.

NEXT LABYRINTH WALK will be Wednesday, August 20, from 3:00 pm till 6:00 pm; the Grief Support Group meets at 6:30 pm on Thursday, August 21.

OUTSIDE MOVIE NIGHT – The 100th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a free family movie night, Saturday, August 23, starting at 7:00 pm with games, bubbles, chalk art – movie begins at 8:00 pm. Popcorn, snacks and beverages provided. Weather permitting movie will be outside – bring lawn chairs and/or blankets; in case of rain, movie will be held indoors. All are welcome to attend.

SEPTEMBER BRUNCH – a 100th Anniversary fundraiser – to be held at Irem Country Club at 11:00 am on Sunday, September 21 (no Sunday School), cost \$32.00 per person. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's and must be paid by September 14. Payment envelopes are available on the sign-up poster and may be placed in the offering plate. Proceeds to benefit Pastor's Helping Hand Fund.

ONGOING FUNDRAISING PROJECT for our Landscaping Fund: Please help us raise funds and help protect the environment by bringing in your used computer ink cartridges. A collection basket is located on the table in the hallway between the Narthex and Social Hall. Cartridges are packaged and shipped (free of charge) to Planet Green's recycling center in California, who in turn sends us a refund check. Thank you for your support!

SPCA COLLECTION – Once again, St. Paul's will be celebrating all our non-human friends and family members and asking God to bless each and every one of them, and in fact, all of God's creatures. In celebration of this event and to assist our local animal rescue shelter, we are again collecting items on their wish list. Culminating at the Blessing of the Animals service scheduled for Saturday September 27, the following items are being collected:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Canned Cat Food (Pate) | Dry Kitten Chow | Cat & Dog Treats |
| Canned Dog Food | Cat Litter (Clay, Non-Clumping) | Dish Soap |
| Cat Toys & Scratchers | Kong Toys for Dogs | Toilet Paper |
| Small Cat Beds | Paper Towels | Laundry Detergent |
| Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide | Bleach, Windex, Clorox Wipes | Towels/Washcloths |
| Latex / Non-Latex Gloves (all sizes) | Drawstring Tall Kitchen Trash Bags | |

Gift Cards for Petco or Pet Supplies Plus. If you have other items that you would like to donate, but do not see on the list, please contact Ray Mancke at 570.430.8639.

COUNCIL UPDATE: Highlights from the Tuesday, August 5 meeting: **Church Office:** Microsoft will end support for its operating system Windows 10 in October, 2025, but the office has not updated its computers' operating systems yet to Windows 11 because the computers might be too old to use the update. The office is considering several options to deal with the issue. **Communications Committee:** the committee will be removing information about Covid from the church website. **Christian Education:** There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, September 21 because of the 100th Anniversary Brunch. **Evangelism Committee:** Committee members are organizing a church booth for the annual Back Mountain Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 14. The committee will set up a core group to help organize the church's progress with the Reconciling in Christ project. **Property Committee:** Overgrown shrubs have been removed from in front of Rt. 118 lighted sign; light bulbs and ballasts still need to be replaced inside the sign. The bases of all the parking lot light poles have been sanded to remove rust and painted. Current projects include: dealing with subsidence of two areas in the driveway (and fixing pot hole), repairing mortar joints in Columbarium, maintenance of landscape beds and cleaning and restoring two teak benches. **100th Anniversary Committee:** The anniversary quilt show, art exhibit, silent auction baskets and tea were well received and attended. The next anniversary event will be an outdoor movie on Saturday, August 23 at 7:00 pm. A family-friendly movie will be shown and free popcorn and beverages will be provided. Please sign up for the event on the signup sheet in the Narthex. There is also a signup sheet for the 100th Anniversary Brunch at the Greens at Irem Temple on Sunday, September 21.

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregations of Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Sandi Fassett, Marge Fritzing, Jean Grube, Morgan Holbrook, Robert Kline, Pat Peiffer, Rachelle Pryor, Wally Richardson, Greta Ruckno, Dave Scheff, Carol Swanson, Jack Traver, Anita Weiss, Geri Williams, Peter Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, Shirley Zimmerman.

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: Robert Binger, Michael Bowanko, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Janice DeFebo, John Diel, Manfred Diel, Denise Ekdahl, Karen Evanish, John Fisher, Thomas Fortner, Rich Fufaro, Deacon Barb Gessner, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Jenny Graveira, Jenn Hubbard, Joe Hudak, Mike Iannuzzi, Christine Ide, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Bradley Kessler, Elsie Kosmach, Rebecca & Ryan Kozloski, Alice Laskowski, Lindsey Lattari, Kevin Loeffler, Carol Marker, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Bryant Mesick, Rob Merritt, Betty Jane Mokychic, Patty N., Marlin Nuehring, Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Peg O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Toni Quinn, Febe Quintanar, Robin Rosencrans, John Roushey, Lisa Rowe, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Debbie Smith, Mark Sokolowski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Lori Strobel, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Karen Wise, Frank and Cheryl Wright, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Keith, Diane, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Greg, Josh, Justin, Jim, Megan, April, Connie, Jill (no last names given).