ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026



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

Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am till 4:00 pm

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME! The author of Psalm 42 remembers going with the crowd to the house of God "with the voice of joy and praise" (Psalm 42:4, NKJV). May we share that same spirit of gladness today as we gather to worship our Creator and approach his throne of grace. A warm welcome to all!

OUR READINGS during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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.

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.

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 the church office, note a new address or phone number).

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS for November 21/22: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Lord of Light* Wilbur Held

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 and self-examination.

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 judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before our neighbors. Cast away our transgressions, forgive us our sins, 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. In his + holy name and by his authority, we are forgiven all our sins. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 688 *Lord of Light*

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sit.

WORD

CHILREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. … At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

Spoken responsively by the lector and the congregation.

[1] Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
[2] Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

[3] You turn us back to dust
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
[4] For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.

[5] You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
[6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

[7] For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
[8] You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

[12] So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

SECOND READING **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

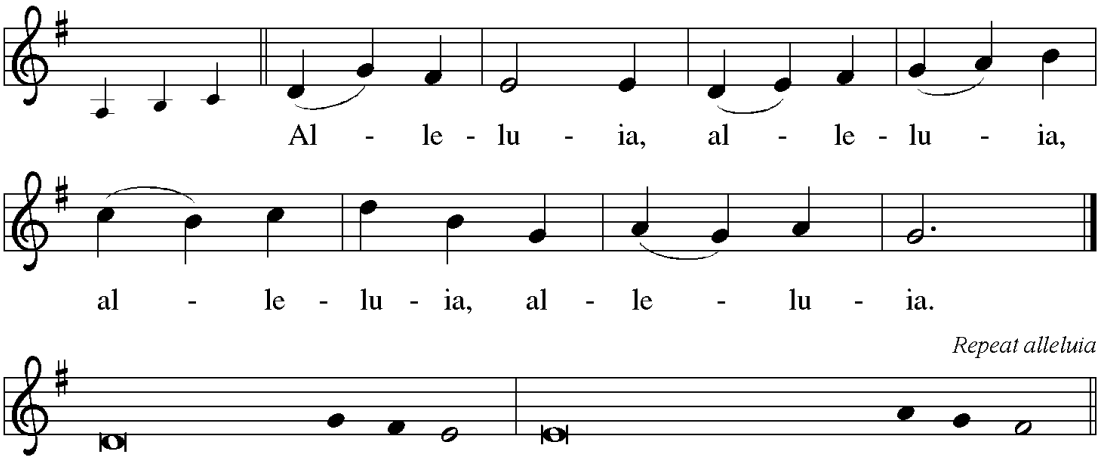
A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the

Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Abide in me as I a- | bide in you;*
those who abide in me | bear much fruit. Refrain.

GOSPEL **MATTHEW 25:14-30**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave,

throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn.
HYMN OF THE DAY #437 *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

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
With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, 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.*

THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY #678, v. 1 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

RUSTINGTON
8 7 8 7 D

Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all creation, all blessings are from you. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, and in this meal, your gift to us, form us into the body of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray
Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send our Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 632 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* J. Bert Carlson

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SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters:	Pat and Bill Peiffer
Acolyte:	Keith Brosious
Worship Leader:	Trish Brosious
Assistant Minister:	Keith Brosious
Lector:	Bill Peiffer
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God, in Honor of the Baptism of Lukas Daniel Faux, by the Smallwood family.

WE WELCOMED into the membership of St. Paul's by Holy Baptism, Lukas Daniel Faux, last evening. Lukas is the son of Rebekah and James Faux and the great-grandson of Geri Williams. His sponsors are Roman Tasco and Chandler Brown. The red rose is given in honor of Lukas' Baptism by St. Paul's Dorcas Society.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES - Bible study classes, led by Trish Brosious, will resume meeting on Tuesday, November 24 at 10:30 am. The classes will continue meeting on December 1, 8 and 15. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, November 17 in the church office, or to Trish, so she knows how many members to expect. Thanks for your interest in Bible study!



6261 BUNDLE GATHERING—All members of St. Paul's are invited to attend the fourth gathering of congregations in our 6261 Bundle, to be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm here at St. Paul's. The goal of this meeting is to bring people together from St. Paul's, Prince of Peace, Grace Episcopal and Trinity Episcopal to reflect on the role our churches have in our lives. If you are interested in attending, please sign the gathering list on the table in the Narthex as soon as possible, so that we may give our Fellowship Committee a headcount.

LABYRINTH WALK: Our monthly indoor labyrinth walk will be held on Wednesday, November 18 from 3:00-6:30 pm in the Narthex. This walk is free and open to the public, and St. Paul's members will be on hand to assist and answer questions. Because shoes are not worn while walking the labyrinth, please wear or bring socks.

POINSETTIA(S) ORDER FORM: Order forms for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary Christmas Eve are included in the November newsletter (printed), and extra forms are available on the table in the Narthex. The flowers are available in red or white and are $15 each. Additional forms are also available on line at www.stpaulsdallaspa.org; click on the on-line giving link. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Deadline to order poinsettias is **Monday, November 23.**

GOBBLE, GOBBLE! IT'S TURKEY TIME! Get ready to show off your creativity! Our Sunday School is hosting its annual Turkey Decorating Contest, and we invite all church members and families to join in the fun! Let your imagination run wild and decorate your very own turkey. The more creative, the better! There are no limits to your gobble worthy ideas! Judging will take place on Sunday, November 22. We'll be collecting food donations for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Bring a nonperishable food item to cast your vote for your favorite turkey and help support those in need in our community! So gather your supplies, bring your most creative turkey, and let's make this a fun and meaningful celebration for everyone!

TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION: Our Scout Pack 241 is doing a service project collecting new toys for children at Christmas. They will soon set up Toys for Tots containers in the foyer. If you would like to participate, please place unwrapped new toys in the foyer containers by **Sunday, November 22**, when they will be picked up by the U.S. Marines for distribution to families in need. Thank you for supporting our Scouts!

CHURCH COUNCIL VACANCIES: As of January 2027, there will be four vacancies on St. Paul's Church Council. Council encourages everyone to prayerfully consider running for a council position to enable St. Paul's to continue carrying out its mission and many ministries. If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.

HEAD START CHRISTMAS PROJECT – starting on Sunday, November 29, the First Sunday in Advent, there will be a Christmas tree in the hallway by the Social Hall doors waiting for your decoration gifts – hats/scarves, gloves/mittens, socks/underwear, etc. Again, this year we've been asked to include Pull Up diapers (all sizes) which can be placed under the tree. Thank you for supporting our Head Start children (and parents).

DORCAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – All women of St. Paul's (and guests) are welcome to attend the annual Doras Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8. Plans include Christmas themed devotions, and a buffet style meal followed by musical entertainment. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the table in the Narthex; price per person is $31.00 and the deadline to sign up for the luncheon is Sunday, November 29. If signing up is inconvenient, please feel free to call the church office at 570.675.3859 or email at stpaul@epix.net and we will add your name to the list for you.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE PROJECT: Cookies are needed by the Social Ministry Committee who would like to place some Christmas "goodies" in their Care and Concern Christmas gift bags. If you are able to donate a dozen cookies to assist their efforts, please bring them to church by Tuesday, December 15 and place them in the kitchen; a sign-up sheet is posted on the table in the Narthex. The bags will be assembled on Wednesday, December 16.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

Nov. 21	Gail Smallwood (No Communion)
Nov. 22	Rev. Robert Reiner (Communion)
Nov. 28/29	Deacon Talley (No Communion)
December 5	Rev. Paul Schoffstall (Communion
December 6	Rev. Robert Reiner (Communion
December 12/13	Collin Grooms (No Communion)
December 19/20	Frank Mariano (No Communion)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today:	8:30 am—Chime choir practice; 9:30 am – Worship
	10:45 am – Sunday School
	5:00 pm—Den meeting
Wednesday:	3:00-6:30 pm—Indoor Labyrinth Walk
	6:30 pm—6261 Bundle meeting in Social Hall
Thursday:	6:30 pm—Grief Support Group meeting
Friday:	7:00 pm—Back Mountain Railroad Club Speakers
Saturday:	9:00 am-1:00 pm—Railroad Club Scout Merit Badge presentation
	5:30 pm—Worship
Next Sunday:	9:30 am—Worship
	10:45 am—Sunday School/Turkey Judging

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. Pray for the Congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore, Prince of Peace Episcopal, Dallas, Grace Episcopal, Kingston and Trinity Episcopal, West Pittston.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Tom Ash, Chris Bellezza, Annie and Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Lois Gdovin, Colin Grube, Daniel Henderson, Robert Kline, June Lorah, Karen Mertz, Raelene Napierkowski, Wally Richardson, Val Rothrock, Greta Ruckno, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Colette Weaver, Anita Weiss, Aileen Whalen, Judy Wise, 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: Jack Babuscak, Brenda Banaszek, Alanna Berger, Tim Brown and family, Cliff and Ron Bunt, Donna C., Marjorie Catania, Alyssa Charney, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Debbie Demuro, Julia Estock, Harrison Frye, Sharon Mary Golden, Nancy Harm, Debbie Hilbert, Marty Hille, Eileen Hoyson, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Doug Ide, Candace Jones, Michael Kaminski, Patricia Kay, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Ken Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Chuck Litkin, John, Karen and Charlie Lulun, Jim Madonna, Carol Marker, Cathy Martin, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Abraham Quintanar, Febe Quintanar, Andy Reistetter, Bonnie Ryman, Chris Salazar, Sandra Serhan, Nancy Shymanski, MaryAnn Size, Richard Skurski, Wally Skurski, Gayle Smith, Jack Smith, Sandy Sprau, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Larry Titus, Corrine Varneke, Tabitha Walters, Nancy Weller, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Chris Z., Mary Z., Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, the M family, Johnny, Betsy, Dawn, Jonathan, Joni, Beth, Stone Family, Stacey, Laura, Debra and their families, Josiah, Mary, Tommy, Sylvia, Kurt, America (no last names given).