ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8th, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 625

Come, We That Love the Lord

We're Marching to Zion



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

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

Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

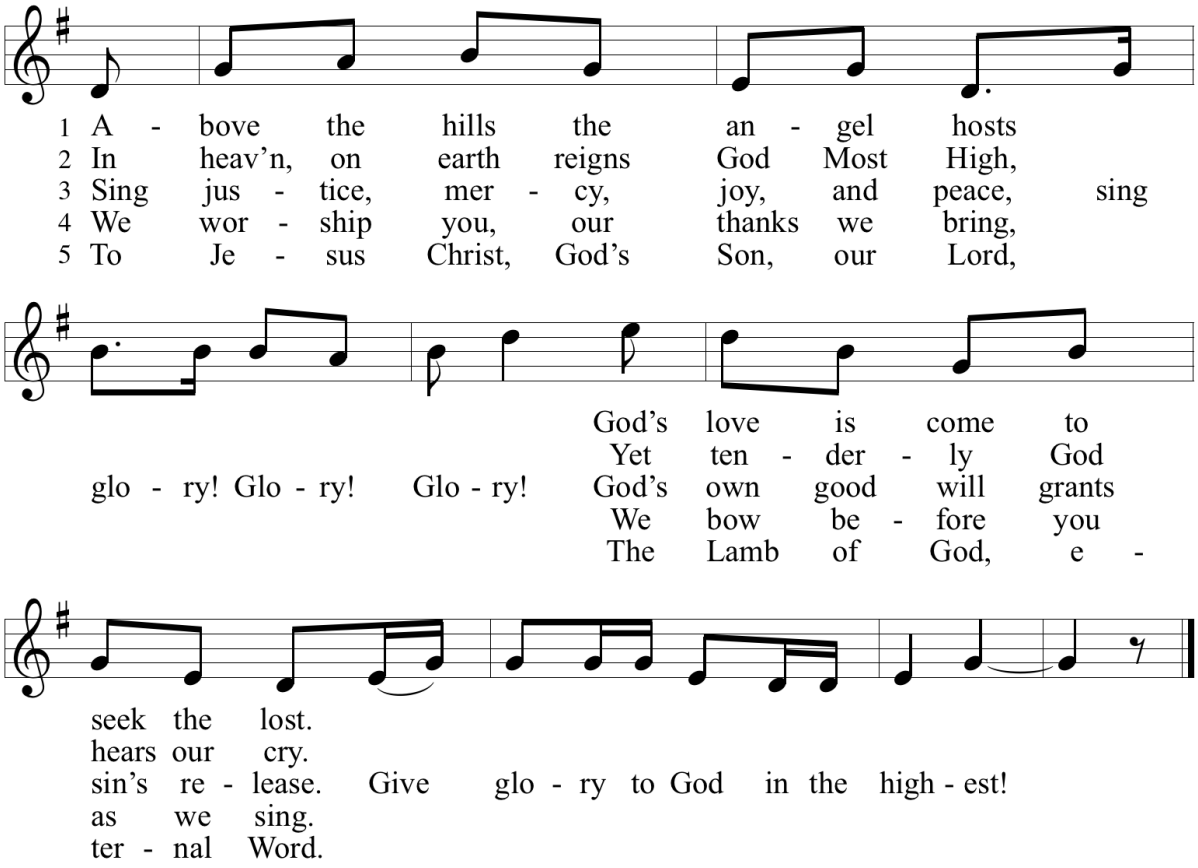
P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Kyrie


Cantor
We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow - shares of our swords, make
plow - shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer - cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.
Cantor
Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -
til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have
mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.
Cantor
De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and
root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

Glory



GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORD

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who long
for the day of the Lord!
Why do you long for the day of the Lord?
That day will be darkness, not light.
It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.
Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?
"I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*GRADUAL HYMN



*GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 785

When Peace, like a River

It Is Well with My Soul



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator 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 to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and 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

A: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially for Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, Diane Busdiecker, Sarah Burke, Pat Nowak, Mary Ann and Chip Orlando, and all those we name in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen.

PEACE

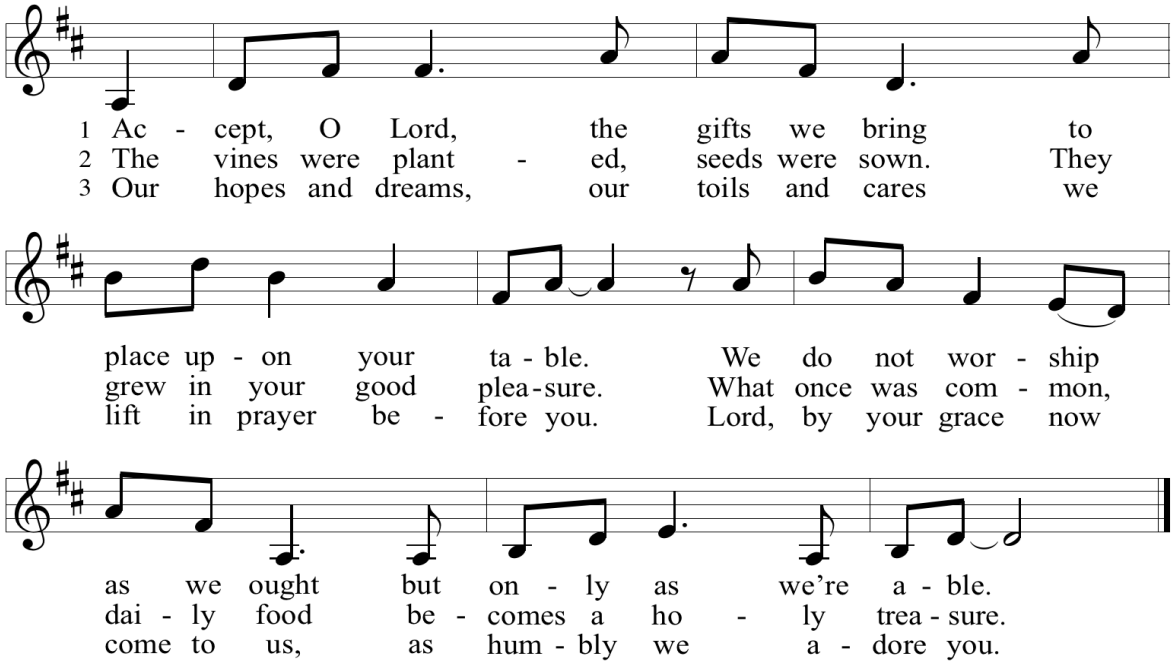
P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE



*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: God of time and eternity, you set out the glory of your heavens and show us reflections of that glory in the tiniest details of the atoms of life. When we find a thousand ways to pervert and turn away from your grace, you transform our rejection into your providence. You dwelt among your people in the cloud and pillar of fire, in the tabernacle and the temple; and finally you dwelt among us in your Son Jesus. In his death you defeat death, and in his resurrection you offer us life with you forever, where we shall dwell with you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

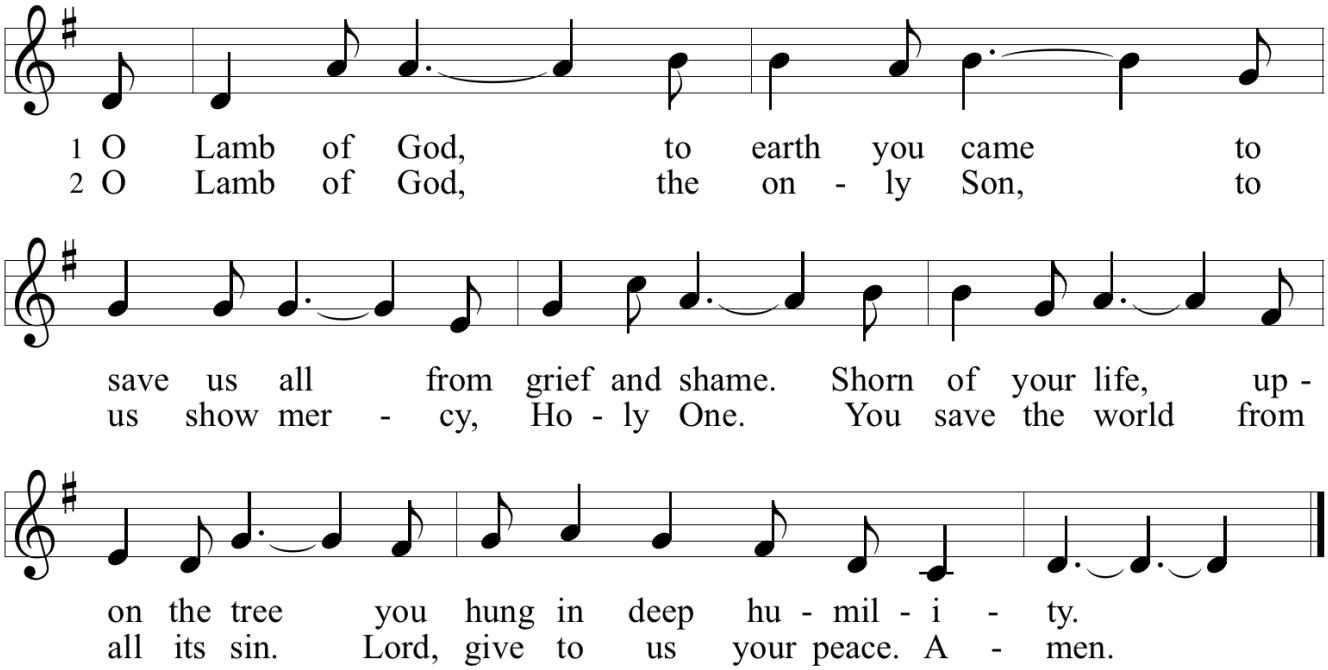
*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

C: 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION MUSIC



*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 581



*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

SENDING

*PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

(A prayer for the sending of communion may be read)

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: Amen.

A: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – ELW 638

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Blessed Assurance



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAY FOR...

ROSEMARY RIZZO
TONY RIZZO
ERIN JANKOWSKI
DEE MARINOV
MARYANN AND CHIP
ORLANDO
SARAH BURKE
DIANE BUSDIECKER
THE DICKIE FAMILY
PAT NOWAK

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI
MAYA CHAKRABORTY
KATHERINE SIKORSKI
ANGELA ROESER
EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER
JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER
DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS
REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR
KEVIN MACIVER- SECOND COUSIN OF ANNETTE BERG
WANDA ZYGMUNTOWICZ- FRIEND OF JOE SOMMA
DAN GRAUPMAN- COUSIN OF SUE GIBBONS
JAMES STONER - BROTHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL
ROBERT G. HABERMEHL-FATHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL
GRACE - GRANDDAUGHTER OF PAT NOWAK
RICHARD HITCHCOCK- FATHER OF MATT HITCHCOCK
THE LERNER FAMILY-FRIENDS OF CATHY LAMBERT
DAVID PEASE-BROTHER OF DEBORAH WALDROP

Book Club will meet on November 22nd to discuss The Correspondent by Virginia Evans.

The Correspondent is written in epistolary format. Through letters to various recipients, Sybil Van Antwerp examines her life and confronts a painful past, learning to find forgiveness and move forward.

Discussion Leader: Kathy Hannon | Host: Tim Madsen

The non-perishable Thanksgiving food drive is underway! Please put donations in the labeled bin in the foyer, and the wish list is in the weekly newsletter.

The Hands-Only CPR class will be held after the service today. Prior sign up is needed.

SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE

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Angel Tree Project

Our Angel Tree Project will once again be collecting school supplies and hats, mittens, and scarves for the children at School #74 in Buffalo. Trinity East Amherst joins us by providing many of the books we give to each child in the school, pre-k through 8th grade.

Please consider donating school supplies like pencils, pens, crayons, markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, or children's scissors.

If donating hats, scarves, or mittens- keep in mind the children range from 4-13 years old. Please DO NOT GIFTWRAP your donations.

Donations can be put in the labeled boxes in the foyer. Your gifts can be dropped off Sundays and weekdays between 8am and noon.

The drive runs November 8th through December 13th at which our gifts will be delivered to School #74.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

The worship bulletin is intended to help guide us through our worship. Sections in bold print are for congregation response. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please contact an usher if you need to be communed in the pew.





ALL ARE WELCOME!

We believe our risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion and we extend our Lord's invitation to all who are baptized to share in this meal. We have both red wine and grape juice in the center of the communion tray available for all who come to the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you need gluten free, please let Pastor know upon reaching the front of the communion line.

COFFEE HOUR

All are welcome to join us for Coffee Hour before service. We meet for coffee, muffins or danish, and conversation! If you'd like to bring some goodies, please see the sign up in the kitchen.
We hope to see you there!





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Scan here for St. Paul's donation page

STPAULSWILLIAMSVILLE.ORG (716) 634-2330



Trusting in God, Trusting with God

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE
PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD
ORGANIST

KARL KRISTOFF
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

DAWN SAGERMAN
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

JOHN DOERFLER & JON OLSEN
USHERS

CINDY SIKORSKI
ALTAR GUILD