

Happy New Year

*You crown the year with
Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with
abundance.*

- PSALM 65:11



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!



We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!



COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table . Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

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Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

CW 368

Stand

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

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

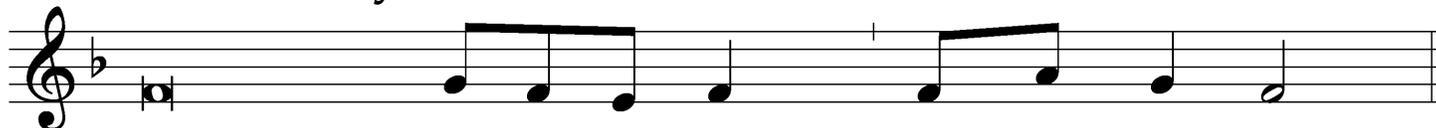
Silence for meditation and reflection

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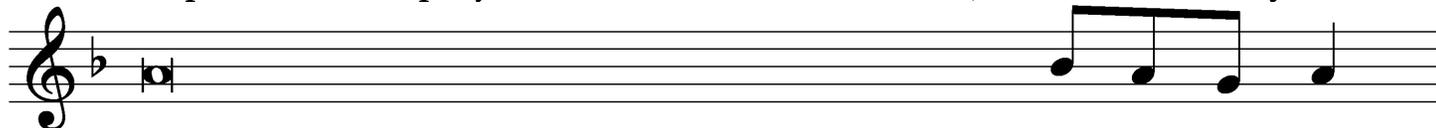
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



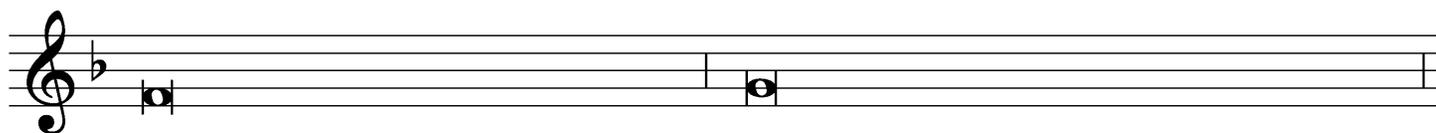
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



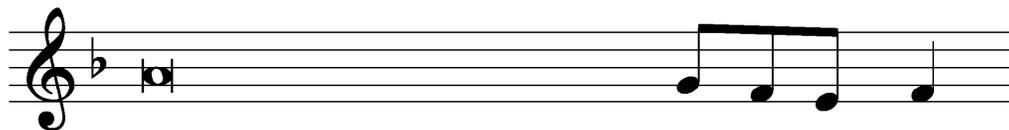
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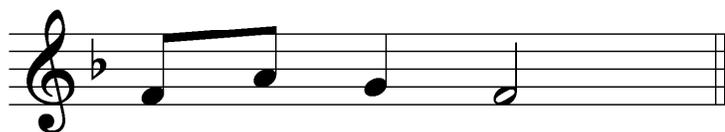
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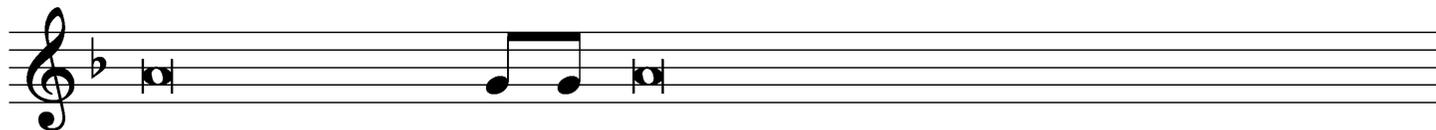
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



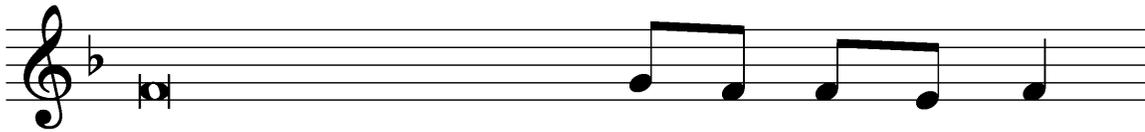
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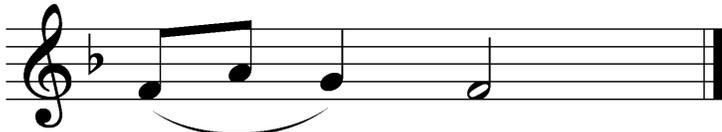
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



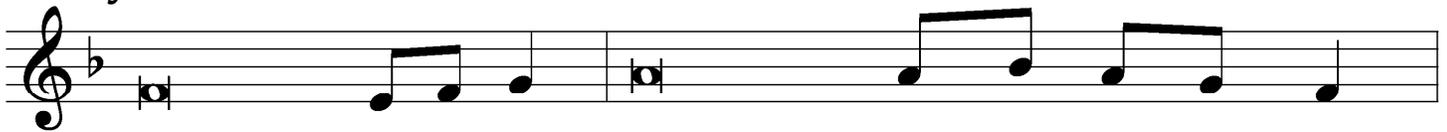
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



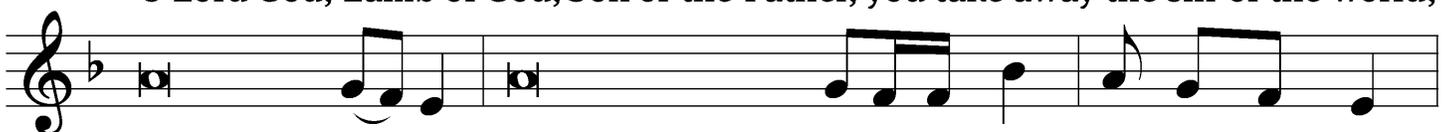
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



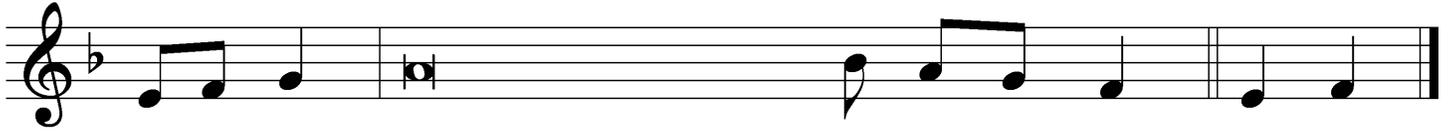
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

- ¹There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
²a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

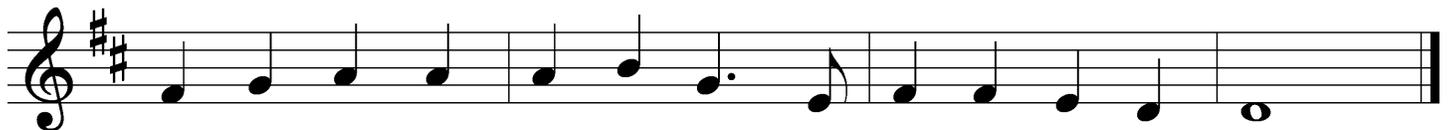
Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Refrain

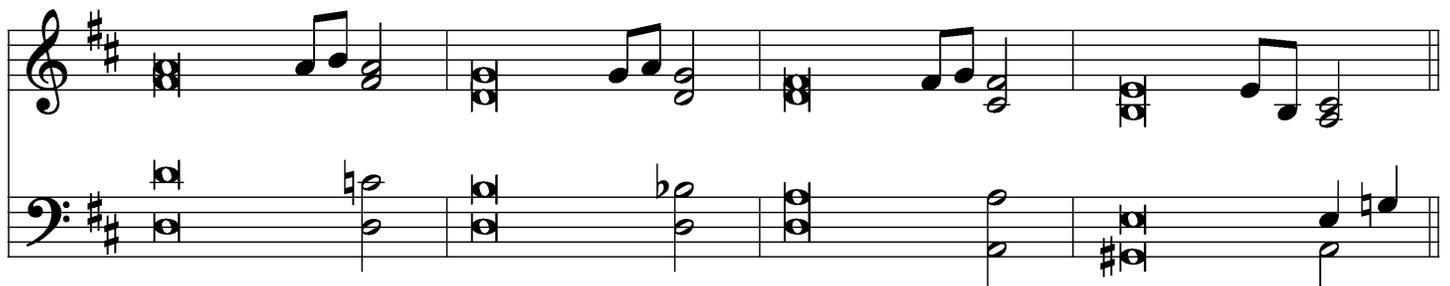


Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of
our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁴For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“ ‘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.’

¹⁰“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.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367

Sermon

Hebrews 13

Face the Changing Year with Confidence

I. Because Jesus does not change

II. Because Jesus abides with his people now and forever

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

**It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude
for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.**

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have
made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Eternal Father, sustain and protect the life of all people and provide a time of grace so they may learn to love the blessings of life with you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Oh, come, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

(Sung to the tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")

**The Lord, our Redeemer, Lived perfectly in love;
He rescued our fallen race To take us above.
With hearts now lifted, Thanks to him we render
With joy we come before him, In gratefulness implore him,
With thankful hearts adore him Evermore!**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

(Sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace.

Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

Words of Institution

(Sung to the tune of "From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come")

**The night our Savior was betrayed,
He took the bread, and when he prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto his disciples said:**

"Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Then when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

“Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

Be seated

Distribution

St. Paul's follows the Biblical and historic Christian practice of close communion. It means those trained in God's Word and who confess their unity of faith here by their membership may commune. For our dear guests we would love to have you join us at the sacrament after studying God's Word and joining here as a member. The pastors would further love to speak with anyone about this if desired.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race As Light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

If you are visiting today or would like to update your information, please scan the QR code on the right, with your phone, and fill out the online form.



SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Steven Wall from St. John-St. Peter in Cleveland

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller

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Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

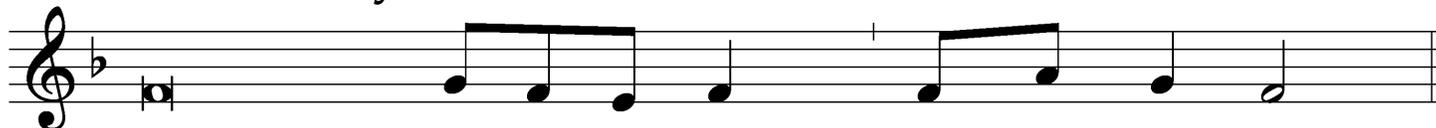
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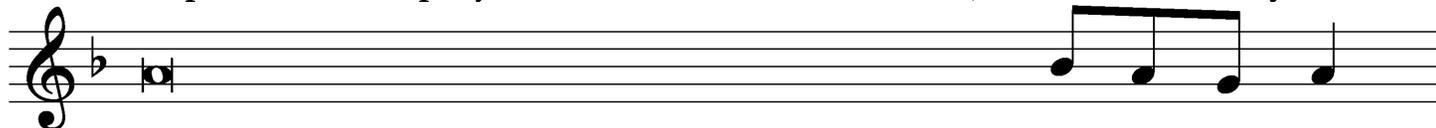
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Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



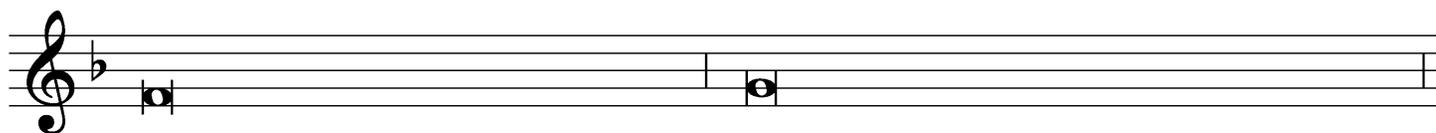
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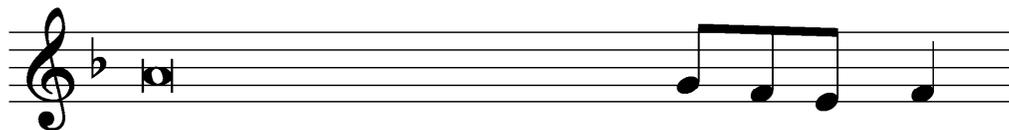
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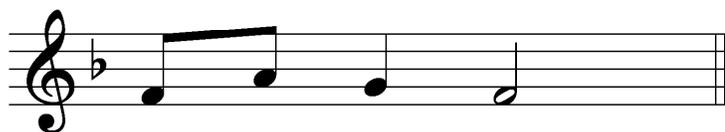
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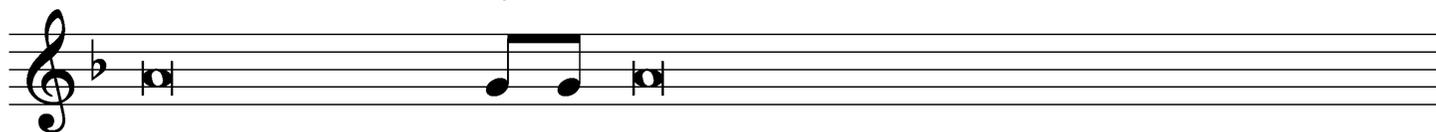
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



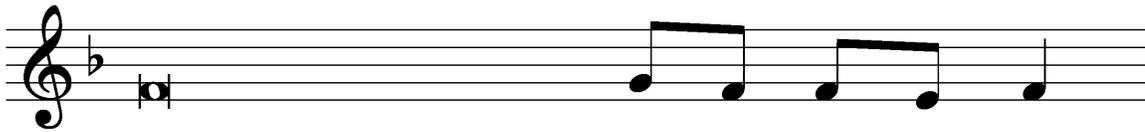
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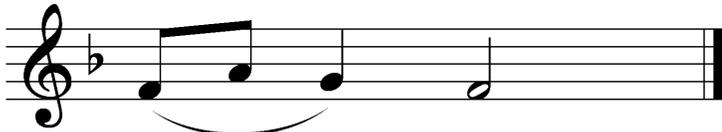
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



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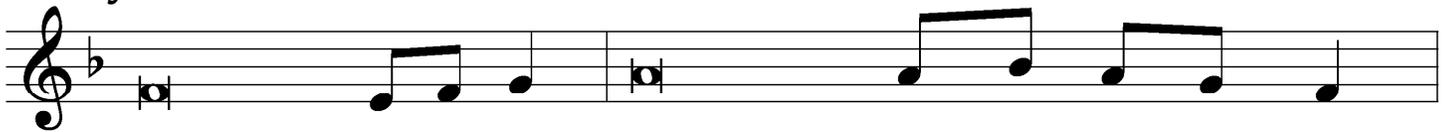
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



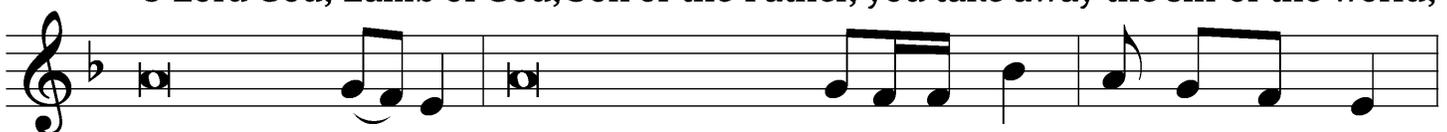
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



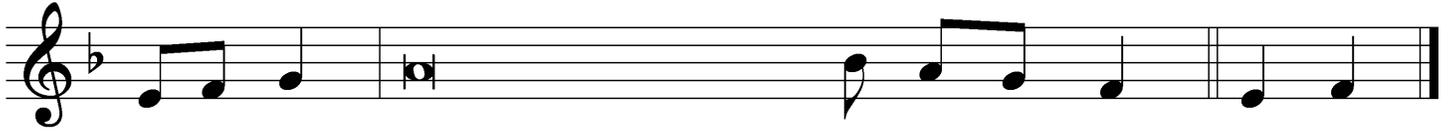
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

- ¹There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
²a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

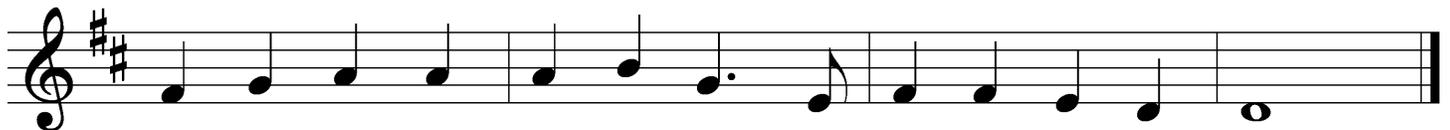
Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Refrain

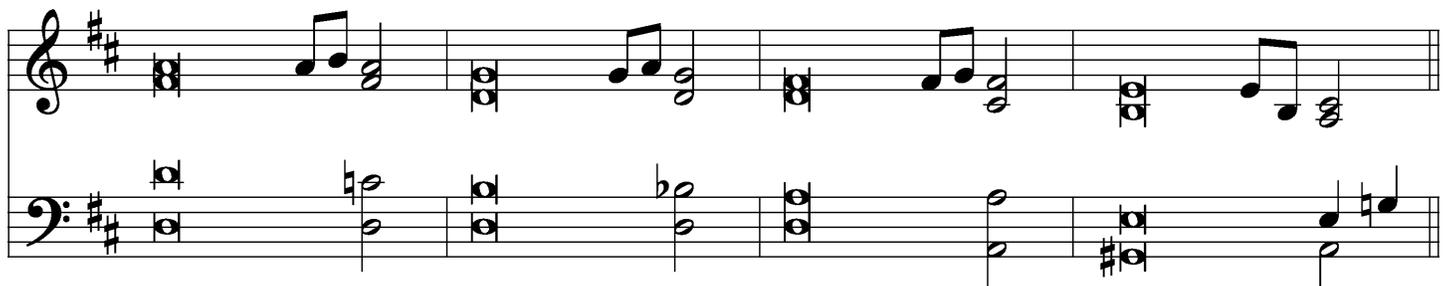


Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of
our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁴For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“ ‘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.’

¹⁰“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.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367

Sermon

Hebrews 13

Face the Changing Year with Confidence

I. Because Jesus does not change

II. Because Jesus abides with his people now and forever

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

**It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude
for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.**

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have
made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Eternal Father, sustain and protect the life of all people and provide a time of grace so they may learn to love the blessings of life with you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Oh, come, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

(Sung to the tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")

**The Lord, our Redeemer, Lived perfectly in love;
He rescued our fallen race To take us above.
With hearts now lifted, Thanks to him we render
With joy we come before him, In gratefulness implore him,
With thankful hearts adore him Evermore!**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

(Sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace.

Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

Words of Institution

(Sung to the tune of "From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come")

**The night our Savior was betrayed,
He took the bread, and when he prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto his disciples said:**

"Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Then when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

“Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

Be seated

Distribution

St. Paul's follows the Biblical and historic Christian practice of close communion. It means those trained in God's Word and who confess their unity of faith here by their membership may commune. For our dear guests we would love to have you join us at the sacrament after studying God's Word and joining here as a member. The pastors would further love to speak with anyone about this if desired.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race As Light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

If you are visiting today or would like to update your information, please scan the QR code on the right, with your phone, and fill out the online form.



SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Steven Wall from St. John-St. Peter in Cleveland

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller

Happy New Year

*You crown the year with
Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with
abundance.*

- PSALM 65:11



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!



We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!



COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table . Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Communion Preparation

Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

CW 368

Stand

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

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

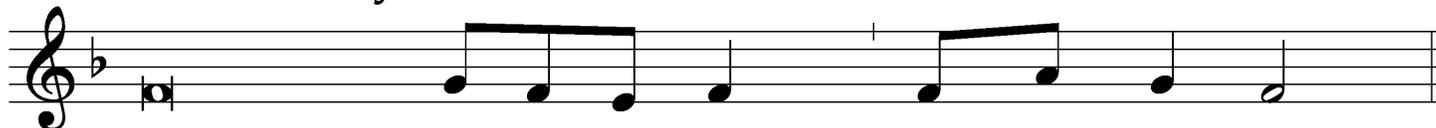
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I

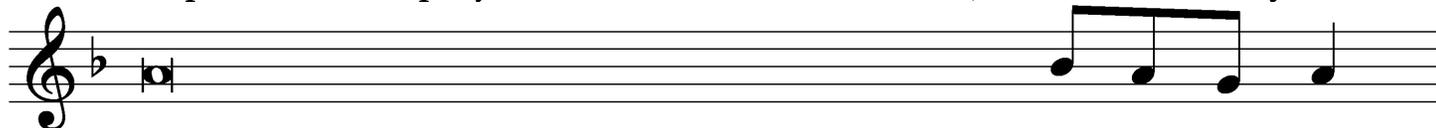
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



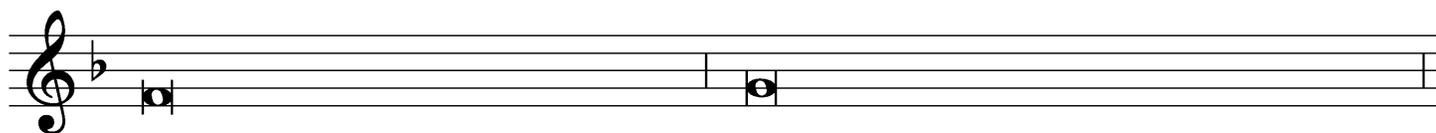
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



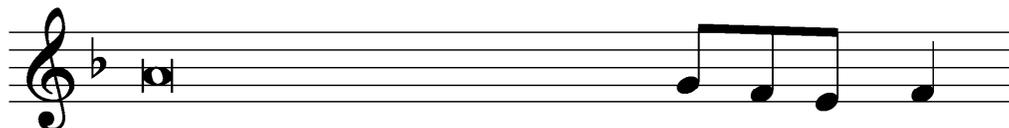
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



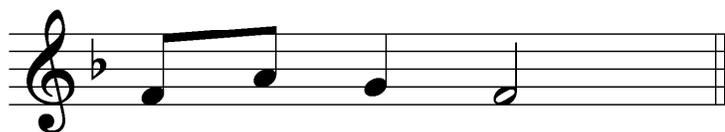
Lord, have mer - cy.



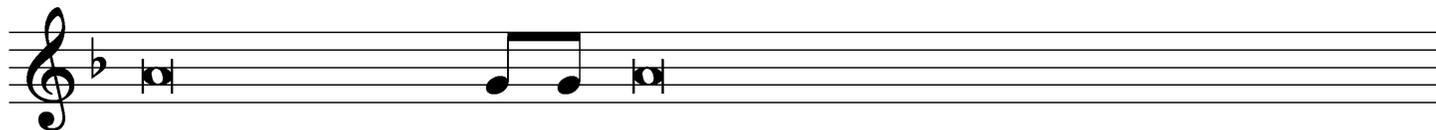
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



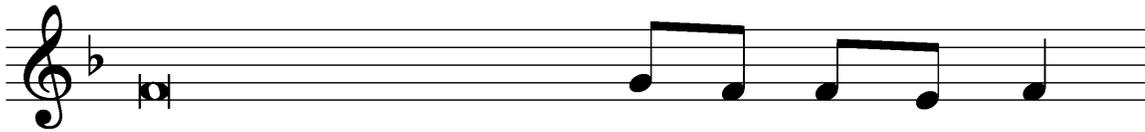
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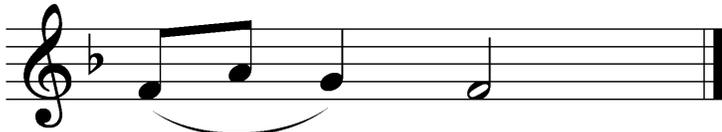
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



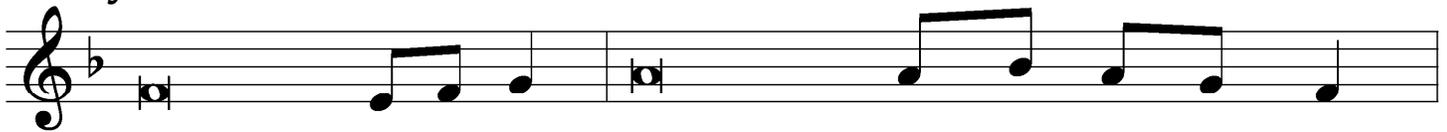
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



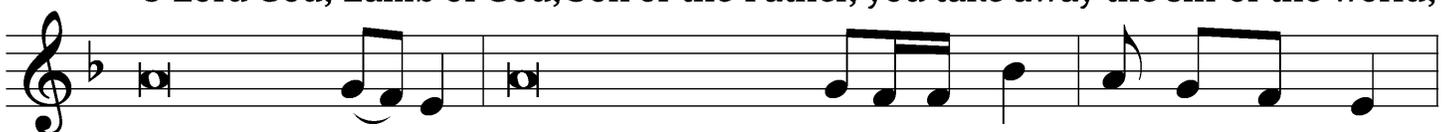
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



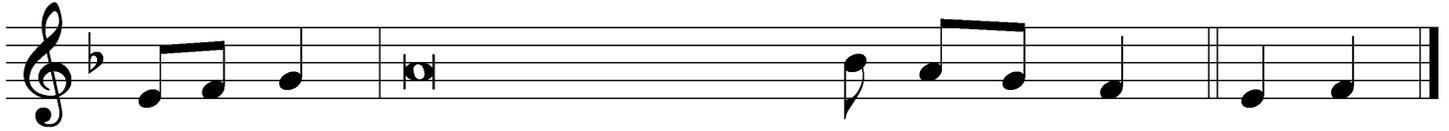
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

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The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

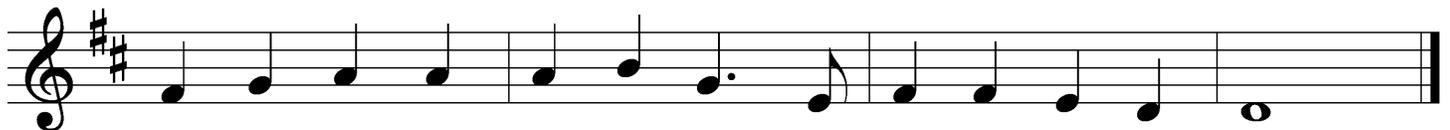
Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone

Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of
our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
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The Word of the Lord.

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Matthew 25:1–13

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⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“ ‘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.’

¹⁰“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.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367

Sermon

Hebrews 13

Face the Changing Year with Confidence

I. Because Jesus does not change

II. Because Jesus abides with his people now and forever

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

**It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude
for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.**

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have
made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Eternal Father, sustain and protect the life of all people and provide a time of grace so they may learn to love the blessings of life with you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Oh, come, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

(Sung to the tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")

**The Lord, our Redeemer, Lived perfectly in love;
He rescued our fallen race To take us above.
With hearts now lifted, Thanks to him we render
With joy we come before him, In gratefulness implore him,
With thankful hearts adore him Evermore!**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

(Sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace.

Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

Words of Institution

(Sung to the tune of "From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come")

**The night our Savior was betrayed,
He took the bread, and when he prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto his disciples said:**

"Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Then when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

“Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

Be seated

Distribution

St. Paul's follows the Biblical and historic Christian practice of close communion. It means those trained in God's Word and who confess their unity of faith here by their membership may commune. For our dear guests we would love to have you join us at the sacrament after studying God's Word and joining here as a member. The pastors would further love to speak with anyone about this if desired.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race As Light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

If you are visiting today or would like to update your information, please scan the QR code on the right, with your phone, and fill out the online form.



SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Steven Wall from St. John-St. Peter in Cleveland

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller

Happy New Year

*You crown the year with
Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with
abundance.*

- PSALM 65:11



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!



We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!



COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table . Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Communion Preparation

Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

CW 368

Stand

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

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

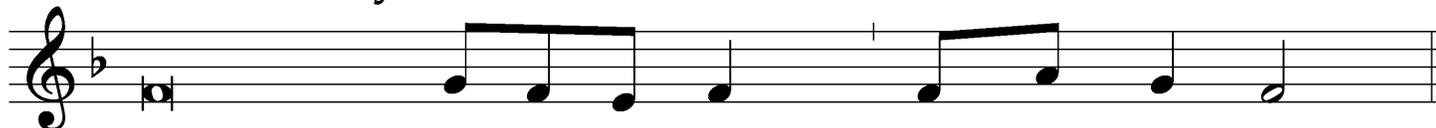
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I

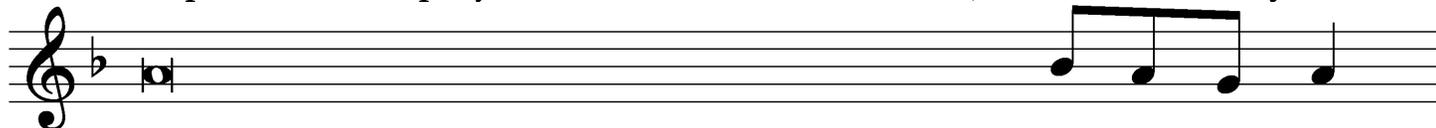
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



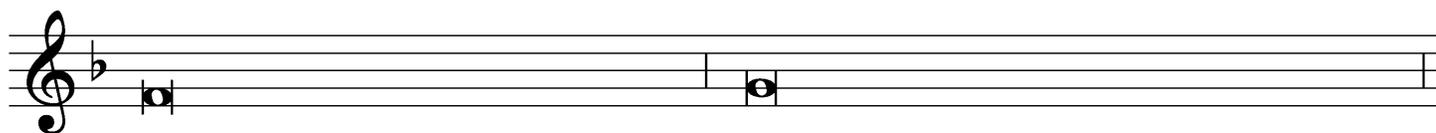
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



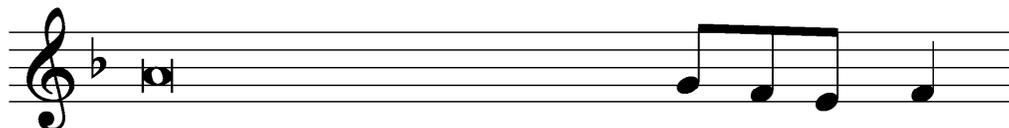
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



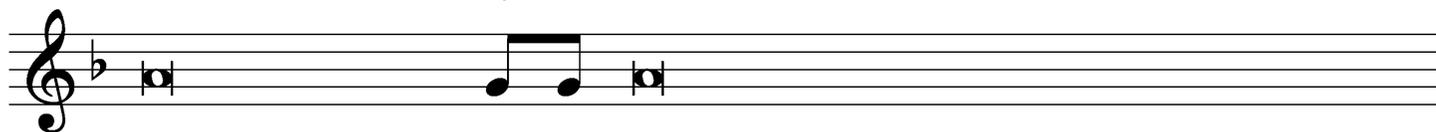
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



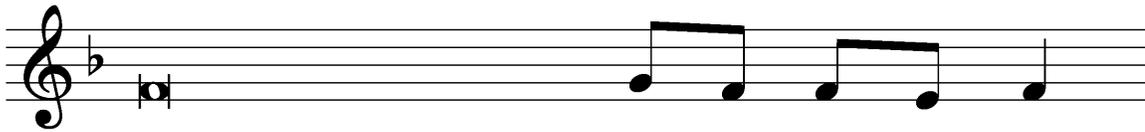
Lord, have mer - cy.



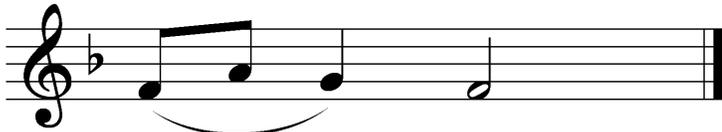
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



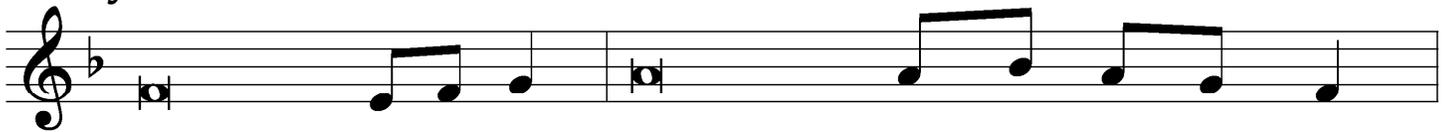
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



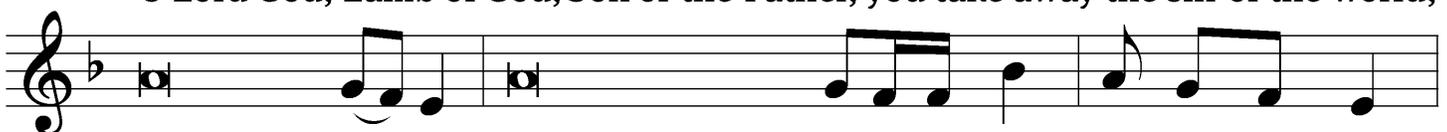
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



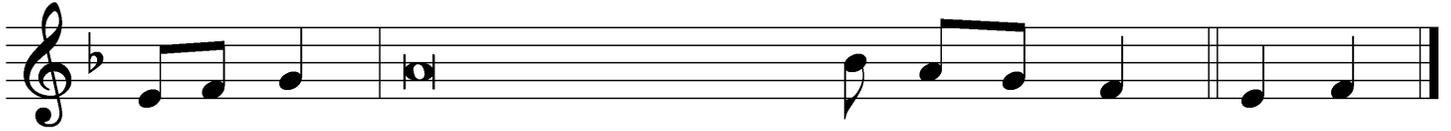
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

- ¹There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
²a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

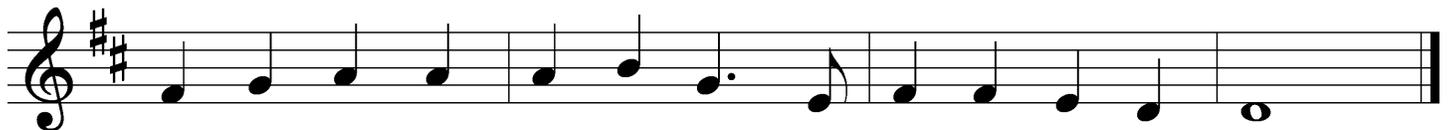
Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Refrain

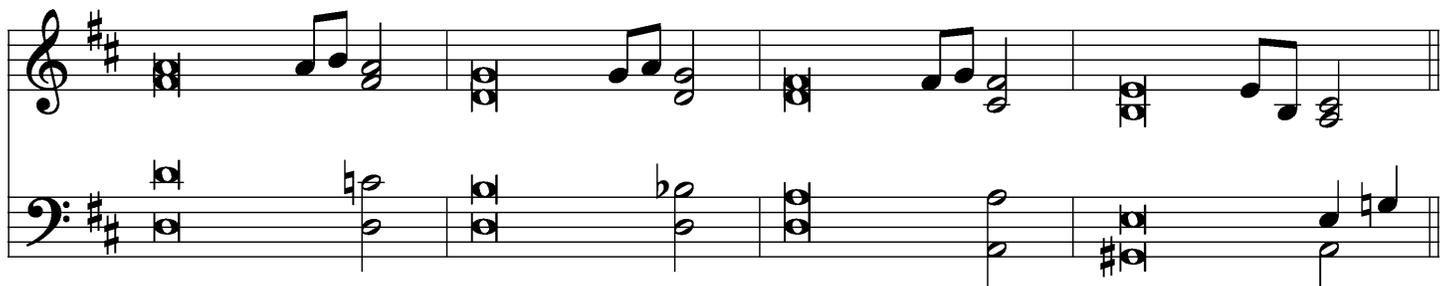


Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of
our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁴For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

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⁹“ ‘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.’

¹⁰“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.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Across the Sky the Shades of Night

CW 367

Sermon

Hebrews 13

Face the Changing Year with Confidence

I. Because Jesus does not change

II. Because Jesus abides with his people now and forever

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

**It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude
for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.**

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have
made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Eternal Father, sustain and protect the life of all people and provide a time of grace so they may learn to love the blessings of life with you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Oh, come, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

(Sung to the tune of "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful")

**The Lord, our Redeemer, Lived perfectly in love;
He rescued our fallen race To take us above.
With hearts now lifted, Thanks to him we render
With joy we come before him, In gratefulness implore him,
With thankful hearts adore him Evermore!**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

(Sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to you!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace.

Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

Words of Institution

(Sung to the tune of "From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come")

**The night our Savior was betrayed,
He took the bread, and when he prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto his disciples said:**

"Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Then when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:**

“Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

Be seated

Distribution

St. Paul's follows the Biblical and historic Christian practice of close communion. It means those trained in God's Word and who confess their unity of faith here by their membership may commune. For our dear guests we would love to have you join us at the sacrament after studying God's Word and joining here as a member. The pastors would further love to speak with anyone about this if desired.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing his praise, What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Lord, let your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race As Light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Steven Wall from St. John-St. Peter in Cleveland

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller