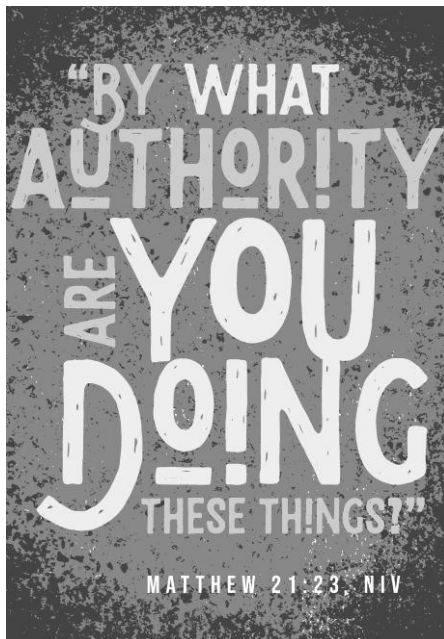


*Welcome to St. Paul's
The Lord Bless You as You Worship!*



***Service of the Word
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026***

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-536-8165
email: office@stpaulspennyan.org
website: www.stpaulspennyan.org
Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

Face Masks Just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours at home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.

Pew Cushions Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude

“Nun Last Uns Gott Dem Herren”

Johann Pachelbel

Please rise in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

Gathering Song

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

#521

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
 4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
 on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
 to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
 where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
 We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
 and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
 and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



Prayer of the Day

P: All-knowing God,

All: You desire purity of heart and integrity of word. Empower us by your Spirit to say what we mean and act according to your ways, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please be seated

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: Good and gracious God,

All: as we turn to your Word, help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing and in our living. Amen

Psalm 25:1-9

A: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

All: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

A: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

All: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

A: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

All: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

A: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

All: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

A: He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation.

Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.

As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.

Hymn of the Day

"Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

#772

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Creed

A: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: If Jesus, our master, can take on the form of a servant, then so also can we. Give us his heart for justice and humility, that we might seek to glorify you alone. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: With cloud and fire you led your chosen people across the desert into the land you had promised them. Show us now the signs that are there for us to see—in the ocean's depths and the arctic ice, in the winds and rains and earthquakes—that our abiding vision might be for a world restored and renewed according to your will. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for all parents who have lost children in military operations and wars. Comfort them in their loss and reassure them that they will be reunited with their loved ones in your gracious kingdom. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: You can bring water from a stone, O God. Therefore, we trust you to bring healing to our infirmities, our interpersonal rifts and all that separates us from living life abundantly. We lift up today (*especially...*) and those we name silently in our hearts. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

A: Whenever we are in doubt, hold before us the example of your faithful saints who overcame uncertainties, persecution, and in many cases, fear of their own death. Assure us of your spirit's guidance and our place alongside them in your heavenly city. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

P: We place into your hands these things for which we pray. Your promises are certain and your mercy sure, for the sake of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.

Please be seated

Thanksgiving

Offertory Music

"Come, Share the Lord"

Bryan Leech, Roland Tabell

Please rise in body or spirit

Offertory Hymn:

verse 1 of Lord of Light

#688

***Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son:
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.***

Offertory Prayer

A: You ask us to look not to our own interests, O God, but to the interests of others.

All: **Accept now these gifts which we bring before you in the name of your kingdom's work, that all your children may know and experience your love and provision. For the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

Refrain

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va - tion be - longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bless - ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va - tion be - longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Let us pray.

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

All: we give you thanks and praise.

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

All: we give you thanks and praise.

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

All: we give you thanks and praise.

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

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Please be seated

Sending

Announcements

Blessing

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

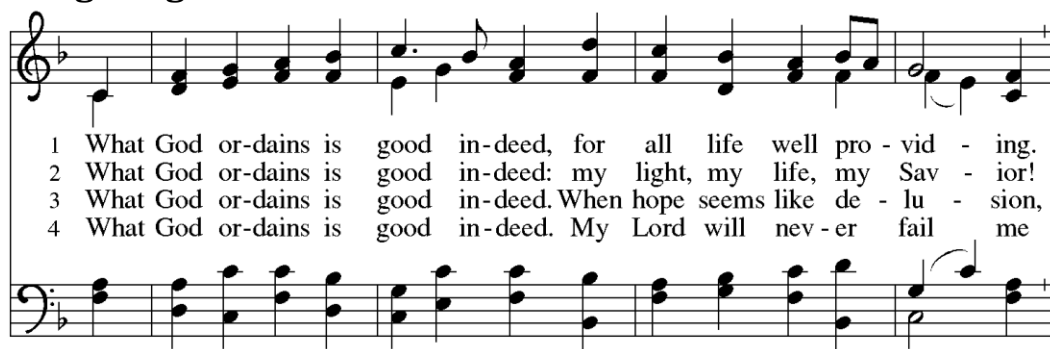
All: Amen.

Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church

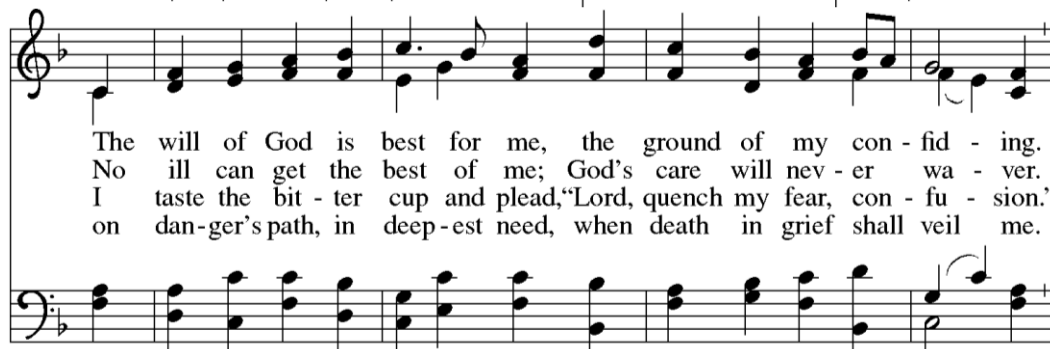
Sending Song

"What God Ordains is Good Indeed"

#776



1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
 2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
 3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
 4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
 on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold clear - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Voluntary in A Minor”

Maurice Greene

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Hymn Notes “Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW 772

The text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Is gathered from selected verses in Psalm 119, the longest of the Psalms. It is a deeply vulnerable prayer that we would submit humbly to God’s transformative power. Indeed, Watts succeeds in a concise selection of salient points and organized them in a New Testament context. This was his expressed goal in the 1719 publication “Psalms of David.” This hymn is for after the experience of salvation through Grace. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit comes the transformative work for us to follow and live out Christ’s commands and teachings.

The tune “EVAN” by William Havergal (1793-1870) was originally in 4/2 with all equal length notes. In 1850 it was rhythmically altered to its present form of 3/2 with the distinctive short-short-long-long in every measure (same as “O for a thousand tongues to sing). This change imparts a vigorous and purposeful quality to our walk along the spiritual path. But the melodic line shows our human limits through use of the repeated melodic triad in second inversion. (Feel free to ask me about this.) This inversion of the triad is the most unstable and it seeks resolution, which we partly experience at the end of the first phrase but completely at the end of the hymn. I find this melodic instability to be a perfect setting for the text in which we admit our frailties and tendencies to stray. Ultimately, our safety and resolution are from our God through Jesus.