

I APPEAL TO YOU
THEREFORE, BROTHERS,
BY THE MERCIES OF GOD,
TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES
AS A LIVING SACRIFICE,
HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,
WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

ROMANS 12:1

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship Service at Aumiller Park

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Apostolic Greeting

Announcements

Prayer of the Day

Insert

Hymn

“This is My Father’s World”

Insert

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm

Psalm 138

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Hymn

“What A Friend We Have...”

Insert

Message

Pastor Andrea Taphorn

Hymn

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Insert

Offering/Prayers

Hymn

“God Bless America

Insert

Welcome to the outdoor church service and potluck. We hope you enjoy a morning of fellowship, food, and fun.

Thank you to Jim & Melissa Shade for planning today's events.

We're so glad you've joined us for our outdoor church service and potluck picnic, and we welcome everyone as we gather together for a special day of faith, fellowship, fun and food! Our theme today is "A Birthday Bash—Happy Birthday America". What a joy and privilege to live in the beautiful country where we can celebrate the joy of being together as part of God's family

Thanks to Marilyn Long for donating the bottled water for lunch and coming in early to help decorate. Also, thank you to Mike Hall for serving as our picnic auctioneer. Mike does a great job at "audience participation"! To make it a bit easier for our auctioneer, we will be holding both a live auction as well as some silent auction items depending on the number of items donated. Thank you to Dave & Bev Robertson for providing ice cream at the conclusion of our auction. It's always a sweet treat and a birthday party wouldn't be complete without the ice cream.

The donations received from today's auction will be divided between Beau Forman, who is currently undergoing medical treatment and rehabilitation, and a local church family in need of assistance. Your contribution today, no matter the amount, can truly make a difference in someone's life and help extend the mercy and love of Jesus to those in need. If you are unable to stay for the auction but would still like to make a donation, a collection box is available at the pavilion entrance for your convenience. Thank you for your generosity, compassion and support.

Youth Group Members (grades 6-12) are invited to the parsonage for food and games on Sunday, August 30th 4-7 PM. You are welcome to bring a friend.

Orders for fall flowers need to be turned in by August 30 to Mark or Doug Ebbeskotte, Amber or Bev Robertson. There are some order forms on the table this morning.

To order flowers or request special ones call Nortons Flowers at 419-562-2816 or email them at www.nortonflowersbucyrus.com

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
August 16, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	155.00
Current	2,397.00
Feed Crawford County	80.00
Filling Home	10.00
God Squad	90.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	10.00
Missionary	10.00
NALC Seminary	85.00
NALC Disaster Relief	665.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	60.00
Special Projects	1,100.00
Total	\$4,682.00
Attendance	108

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

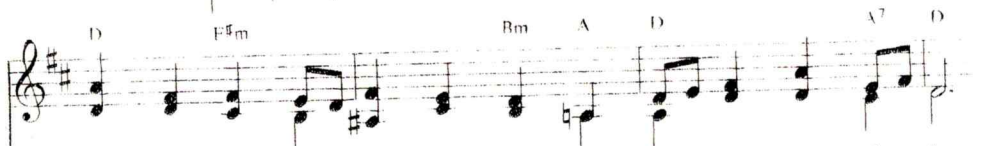
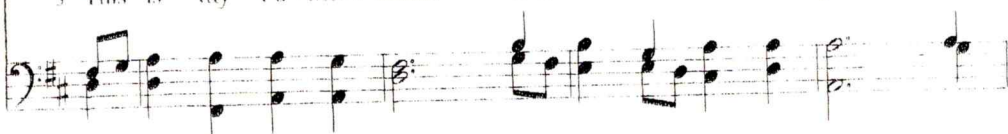
Looking to connect with Pastor Andea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesday & Wednesdays 9:00 AM-Noon**. If another time works better for you, feel to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set Up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Is My Father's World

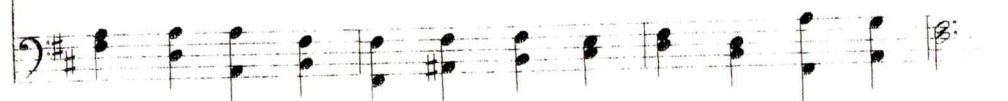
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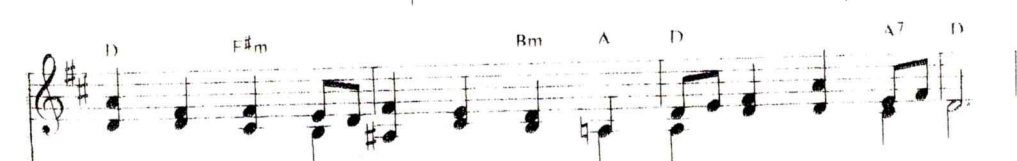
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; The birds their car-ols raise, The
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; Oh, let me not for-get That,



na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, De-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er vet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought Of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; He shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; Why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of... skies and seas; His hand the won-ders wrought
 rus-ling grass I... hear him pass; He speaks to me ev-ry where
 Lord is king, let the heav-ens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!



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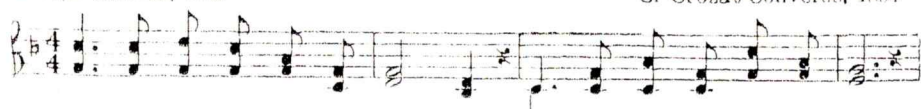
Prayer

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

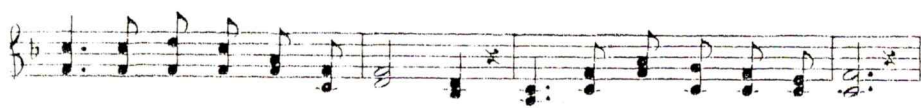
Joseph Scriven, 1855

Erie 3 7 8 7 D.

C. Crozat Converse, 1864



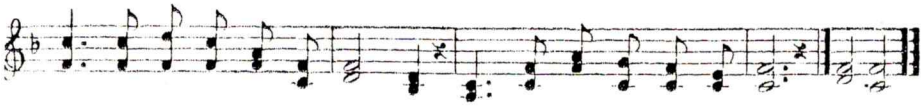
1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there troub - le an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y - la - den, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge,— Take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we oft - en for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thon wilt find a sol - ace there. A - MEN.



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peace,

I Need Thee Every Hour 638

Hear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Psalm 86:1

1. I need Thee ev - ery hour, Most gra - cious Lord; No ten - der
2. I need Thee ev - ery hour, Stay Thou near - by; Temp - ta - tions
3. I need Thee ev - ery hour, In joy or pain; Come quick - ly
4. I need Thee ev - ery hour, Most Ho - ly One; O make me

Refrain

voice like Thine Can peace af - ford.
lose their pow'r When Thou art nigh. I need Thee, O I need Thee;
and a - bide, Or life is vain.
Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed Son!

Ev - ery hour I need Thee! O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to Thee.

TEXT: Annie S. Hawks; Robert Lowry, Refrain
MUSIC: Robert Lowry

NEED
6.4.6.4. with Refrain

God Bless America

(Introduced by Kate Smith, Armistice Day, 1938)

F major-Count 2

Words and Music by
IRVING BERLIN

March time

March time

F B $\flat$ C $\flat$ F

mf God bless A-mer-i-ca, Land that I love, Stand be-

side her and guide her Thru the night with a light from a bove; From the

moun-tains to the prai-ries To the o - ceans white with foam God

F C7 F Dm Bb F C7 F a g c F
 bless A - mer - i - ca, My home sweet home. home.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Outdoor Worship 10:30 AM
Picnic Lunch
Auction
Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl Lay Assistants
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaulslutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

The Final Answer

Sometimes God's plans for us are hard to digest. One of the tough pieces for Paul was the issue of guilt and how to live with it. The apostle knew he was guilty of great sin. He also knew that his kinsmen and friends were just as guilty.

Reading through Romans 11, it becomes apparent that Paul could not resolve that guilt or the questions that emerged in his heart because of it. Why does God bless some and not others? Why does God allow me to struggle with sin even though I have followed Him for years? What does God have in store for my future given my circumstances today? Questions asked; answers postponed.

Paul provides the best advice for those in doubt of God's character or of His commitment to them. When in doubt, worship! Know that the heart of God is conditioned by love and mercy. In the face of countless questions, believe that, in Jesus Christ, God has made a way, provided hope, and offered peace. Our sins are taken away, and we have eternal life because of Jesus' death and resurrection. For that, we worship Him.

May all glory be given to You, Lord God, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son. Amen.



Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



About the Cover: The word *therefore* always follows a reason. The first eleven chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans set the stage for Paul's exhortation to live the sanctified life God has set in place for us. We have all sinned and deserve condemnation, but salvation is the free gift accomplished by the atoning sacrifice of Christ's death on our behalf. We are justified by faith in Him. We have been united to Jesus by Baptism. We have died to sin and been raised to newness of life. It is all the gracious work of God, which is the foundation for *therefore*.



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

Psalm 138*

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;*
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple
and | praise your Name,*
because of your | love and faithfulness;**

³For you have glori- | fied your name*
and your word a- | bove all things.

⁴**When I called, you | answered me;*
you increased my | strength within me.**

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,*
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.

⁶**They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,*
that great is the glory | of the LORD.**

⁷Though the LORD be high, he cares | for the lowly;*
he perceives the haughty | from afar.

⁸**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;*
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand | shall save me.**

⁹The LORD will make good his pur- | pose for me;*
O LORD, your love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more

highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

For Following Christ

Loving Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow Christ, turning away from the ways of the world in order to put Jesus first in our lives. Conform our lives to his and continue to form us for service in your kingdom. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Beginning of the School Year

God of light, grant your grace and mercy to all students, teachers, administrators and aids who are returning to school. Ensure that each classroom would be a place of learning and growth. Bless all those who teach and all those who learn, that your knowledge would enlighten their lives. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Leaders and Rulers

God of all glory, grant that those who hold offices of authority would govern with equity and honesty, serving the needs of their constituents and acting fairly amongst all peoples. Let their hearts be attuned to your Holy Spirit as you work in their lives to accomplish your will. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Sick and Suffering

God of healing and wholeness, grant new life to those who are in pain, that their suffering would end and they would be rejuvenated. Give your peace to those who are distraught or dejected, that they might have the strength to face the day, trusting in your mercy and healing power. We remember especially...

Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28