Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before worship:

As we come into your presence, O God, bless this time of worship. Unite our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✢ ✢ ✢

Welcome

Pre-Service Music "Canon in D" (J. Pachelbel/arr. Hal H. Hopson)
(Handbell Choir)

Ringing of the Bells

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of

Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able

P Almighty God,

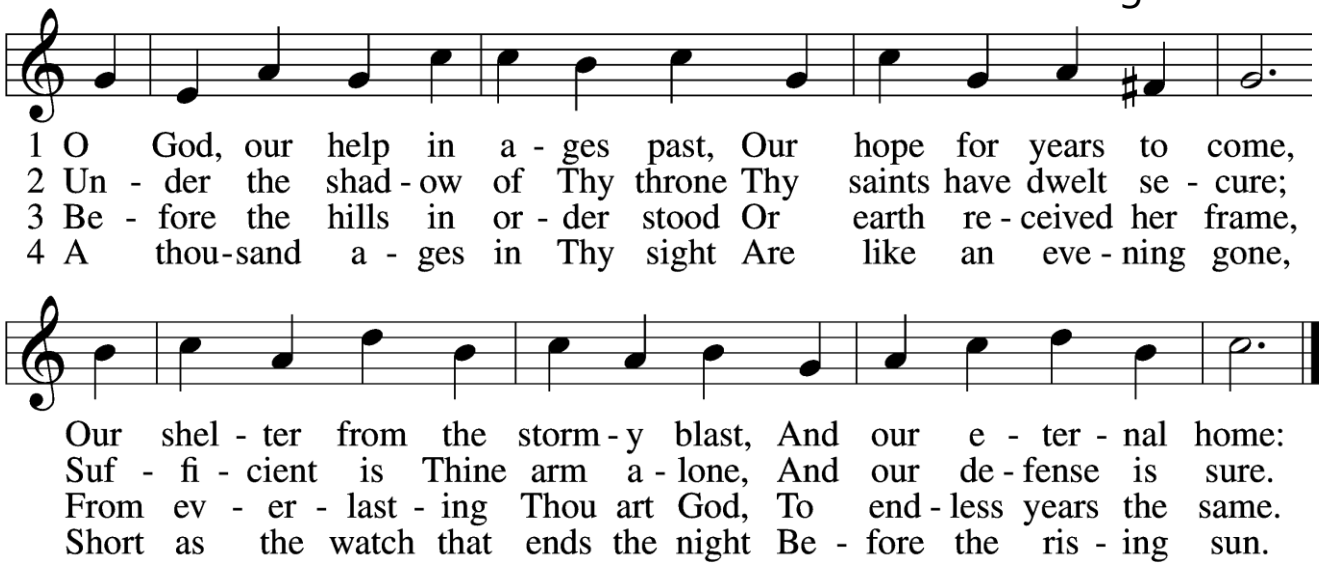
C **have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (LSB 733 – musical setting of Psalm 90)



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727, Text and tune: Public domain

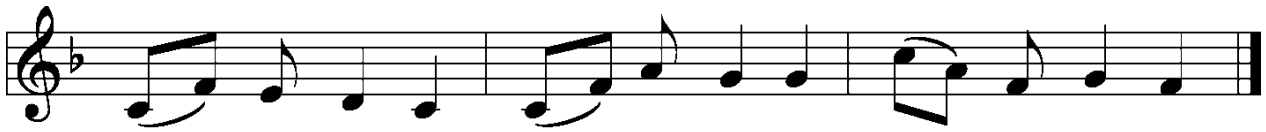
Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Kyrie

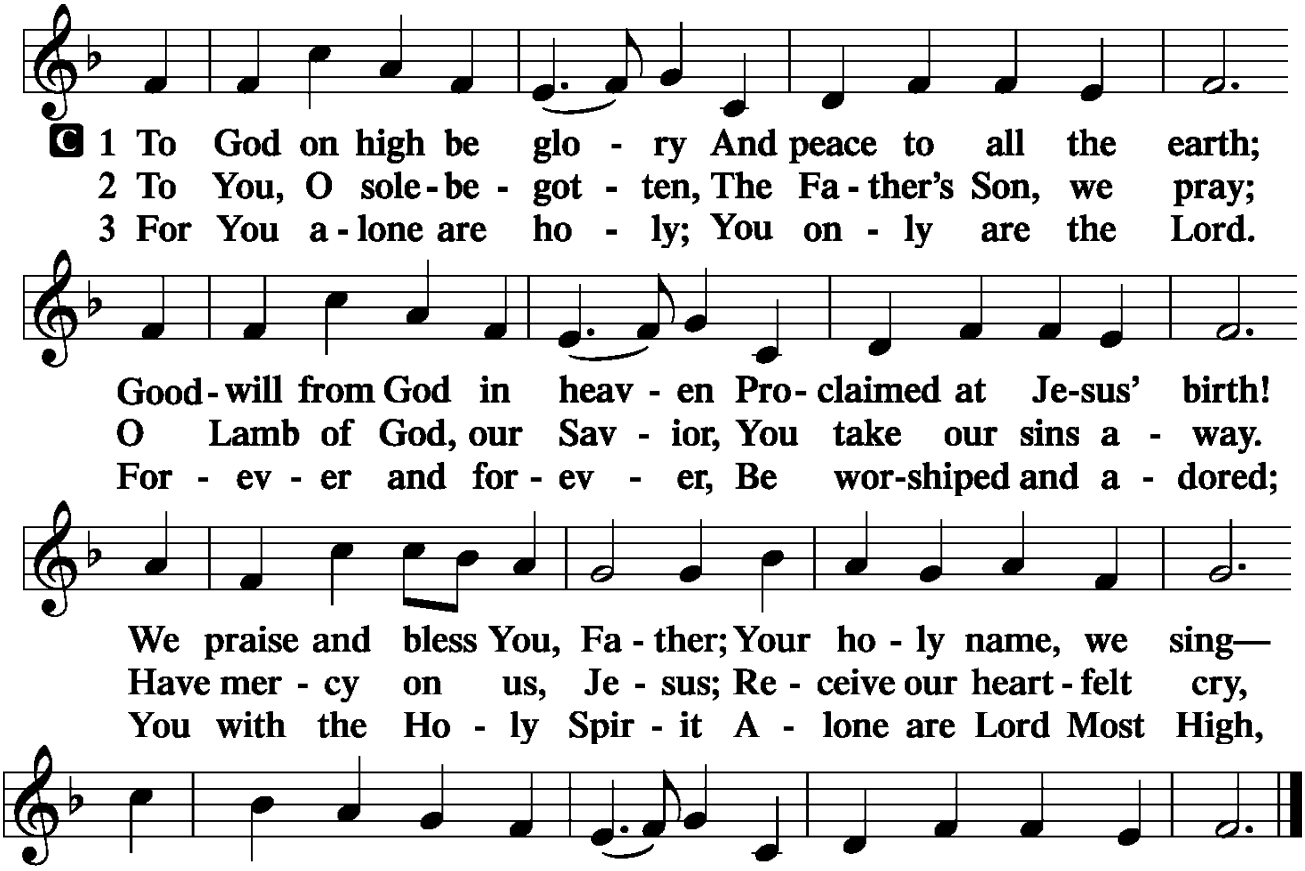
Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.

Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;

We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,

Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD
has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of
the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and
all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's
house with violence and fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry
will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud
crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders
are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will
search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are
complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid
waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though
they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great
day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of
the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is
that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a
day of darkness and gloom a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of

trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 90:1-12

L Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

**C Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

L You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

**C For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.**

L You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

**C in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

L For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

**C You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

L For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**C The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

L Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

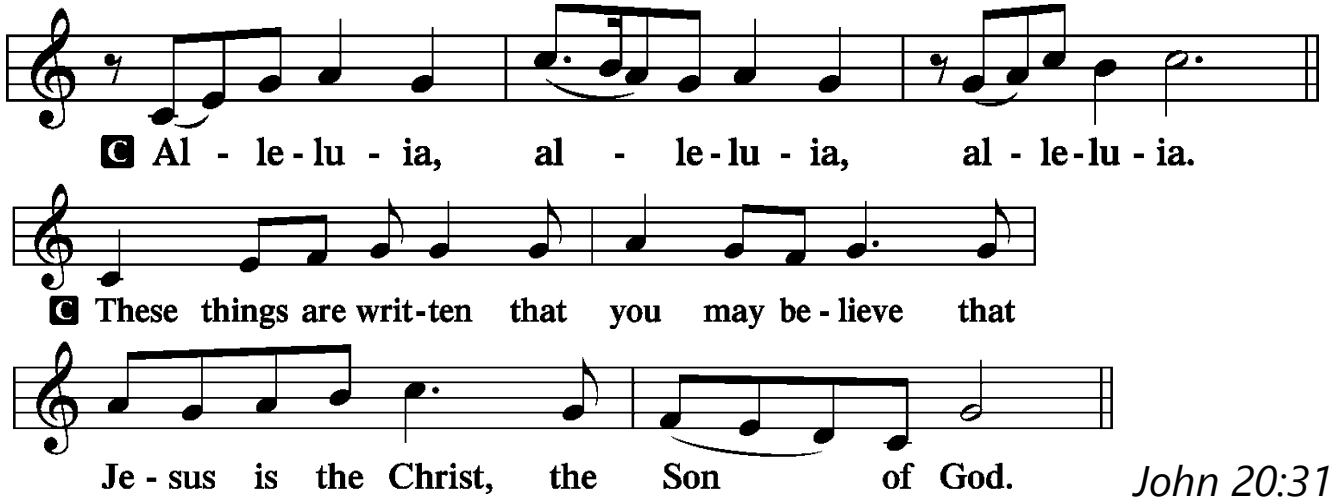
Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need
to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are
saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come
upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will
not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to
surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the
day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep,
as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep,
sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith
and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not
destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus
Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we
might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one
another up, just as you are doing.

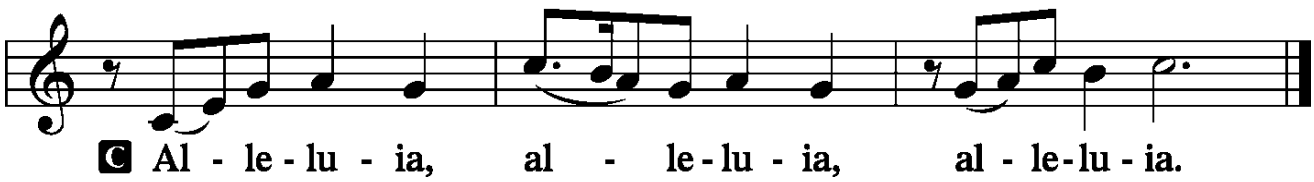
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

14[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' **21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'** 22And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with

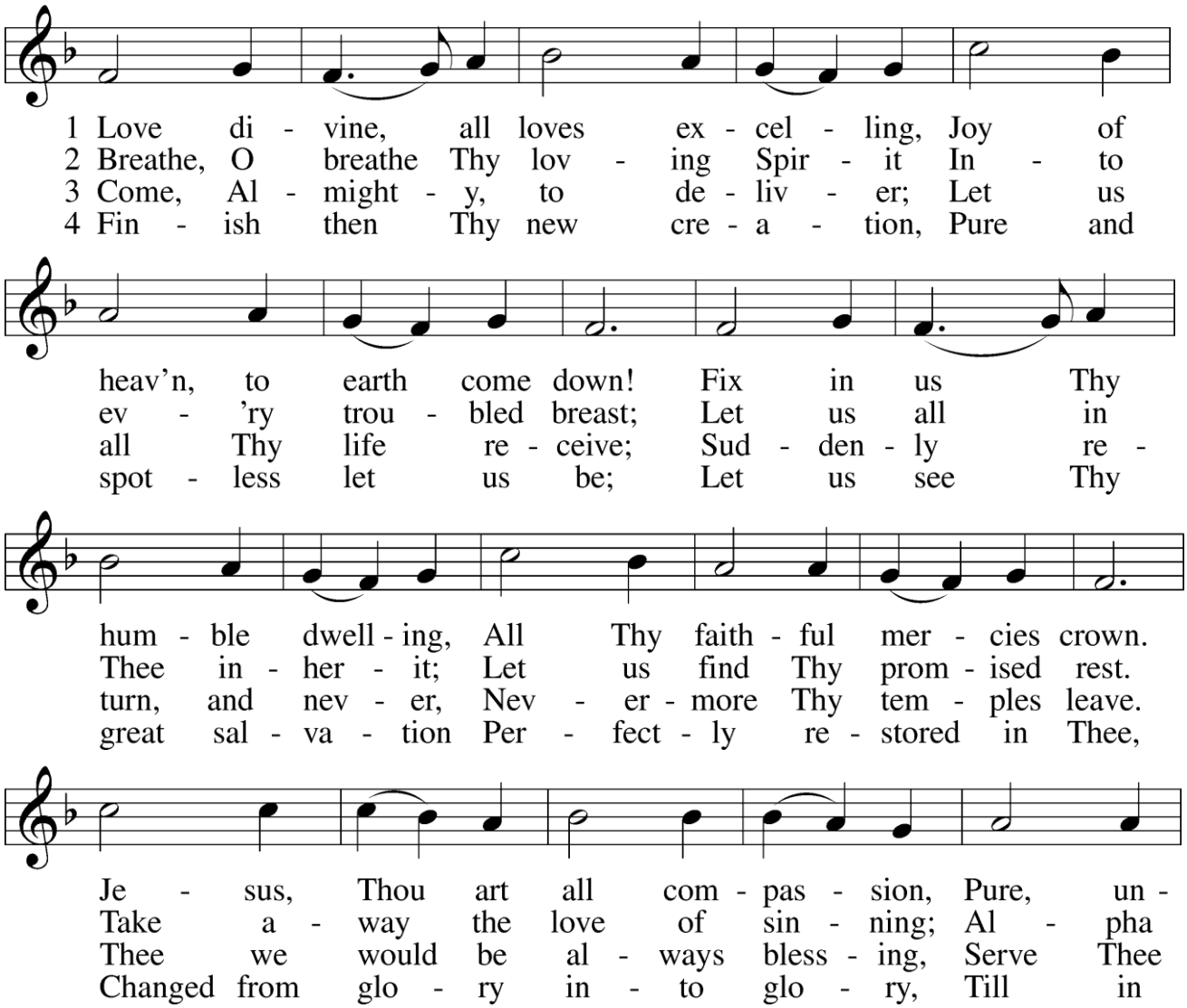
the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

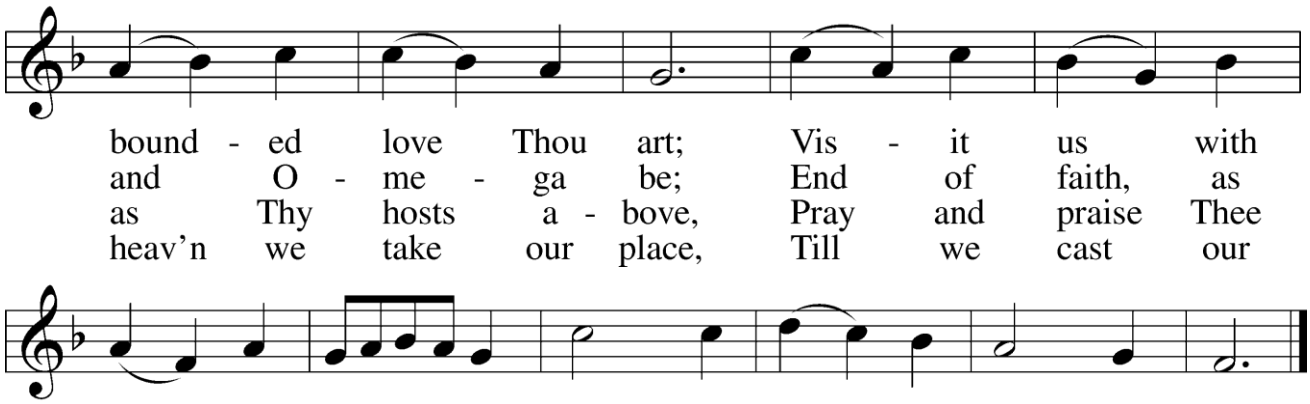
℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon "Waiting for the King: Living Responsibly"

Hymn of the Day "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (LSB 700)





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87, Text and tune: Public domain

Profession of Faith The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayer of the Church *[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

P Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying ***"Hear our prayer."***

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Merciful God,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

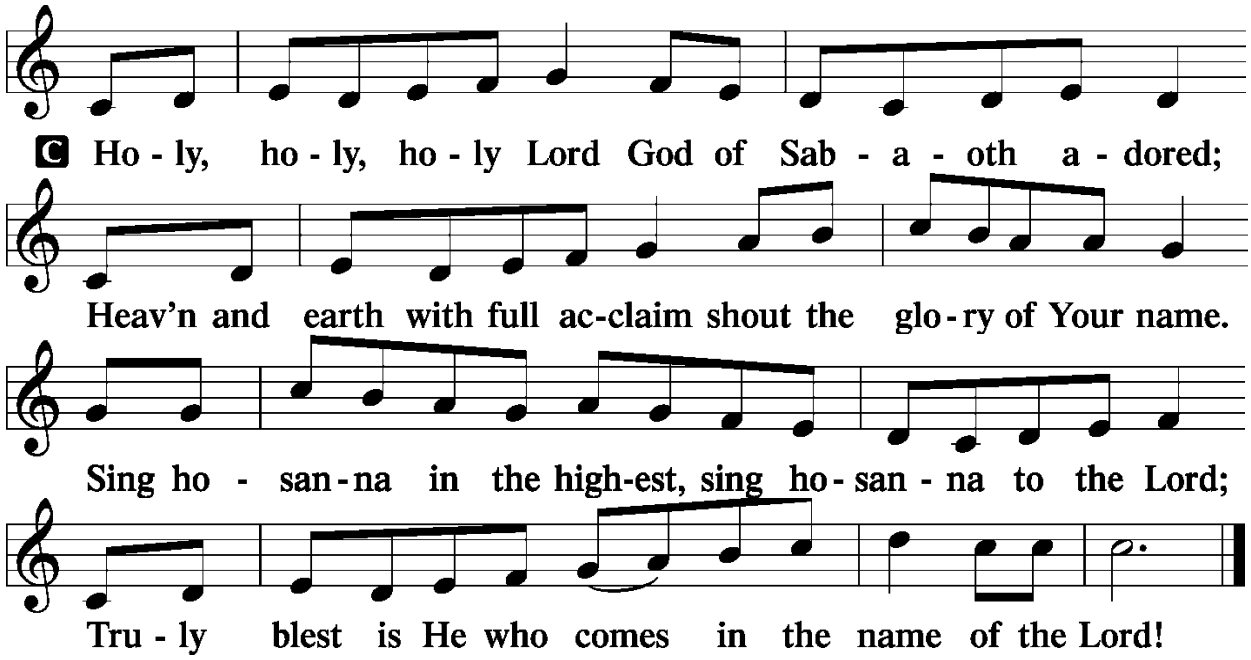
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Prayer of Thanksgiving

℗ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

ℂ **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

℗ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

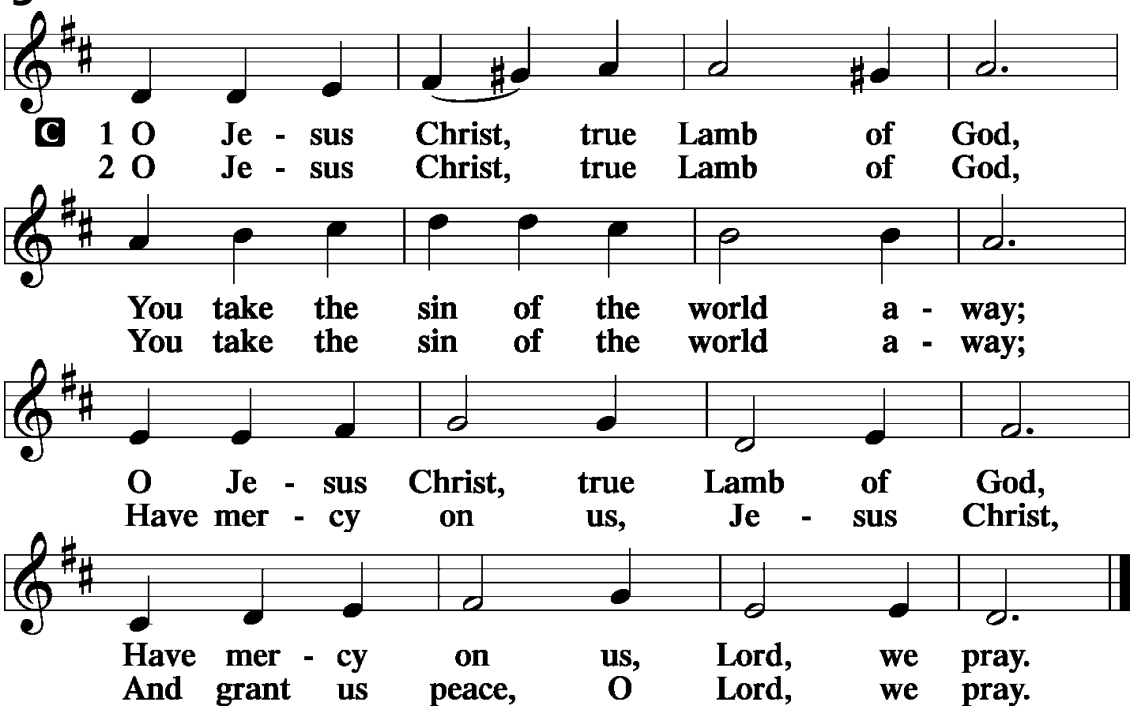
℗ In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *John 20:19*

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

℃ Amen.

Agnus Dei *John 1:29*



Please be seated

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

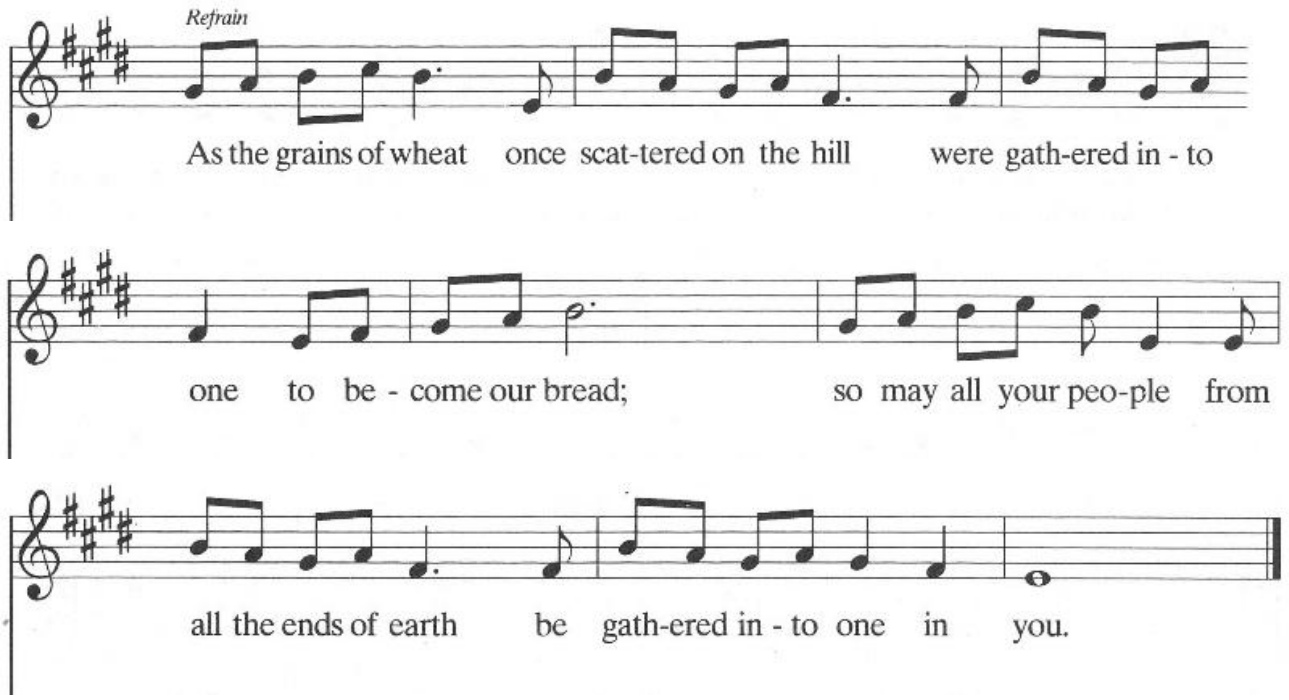
Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

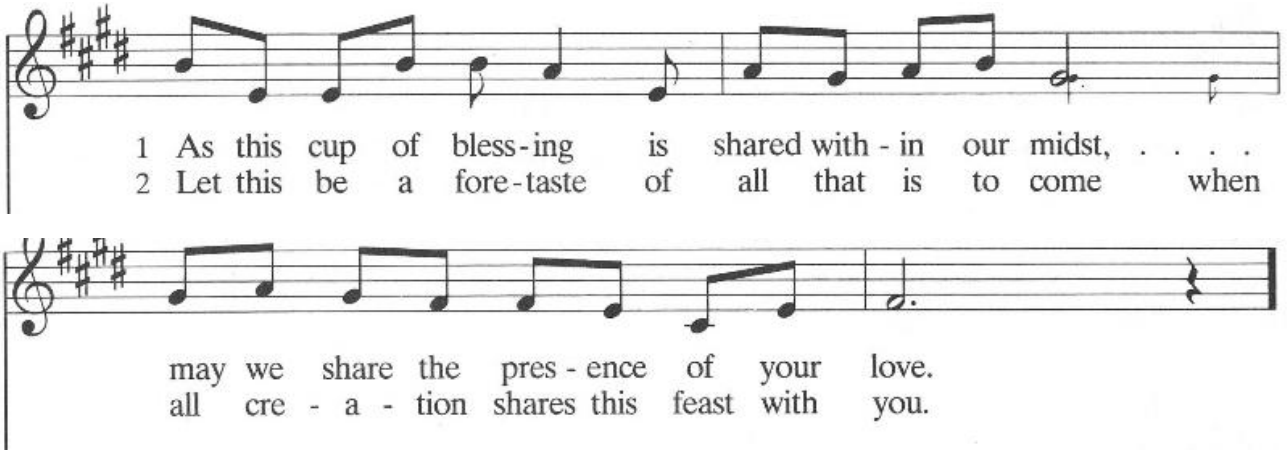
Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

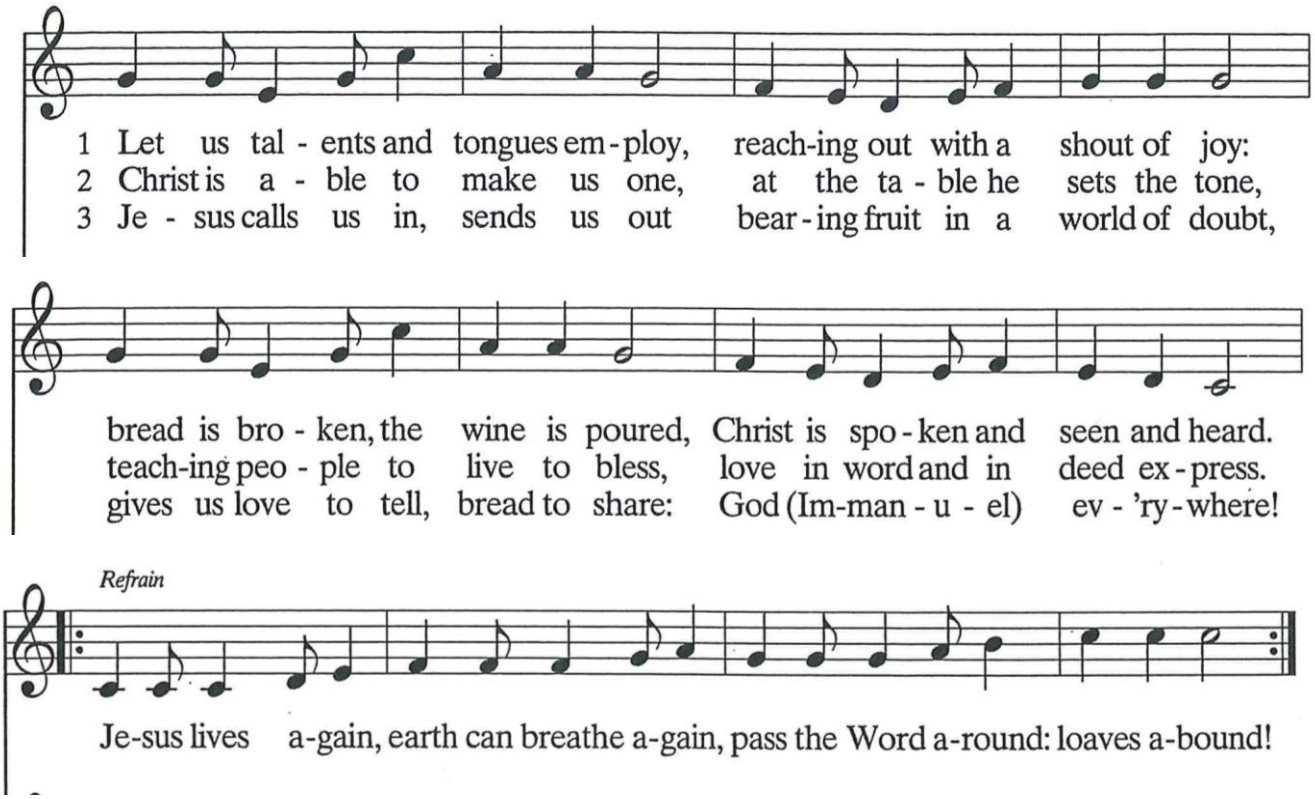
Music at Distribution "Here at your Table, Lord – 'BREAD OF LIFE'"
(Anna Laura Page)
(Handbell Choir)

"As the Grains of Wheat" (WOV 705)



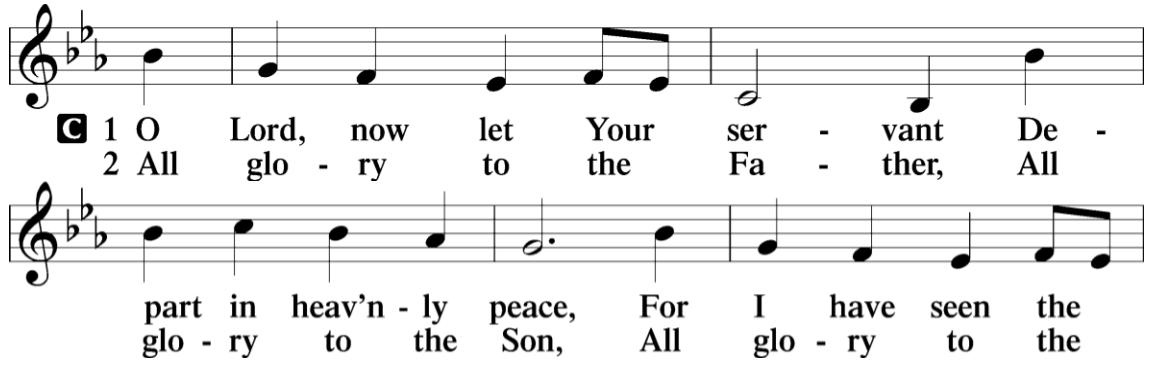


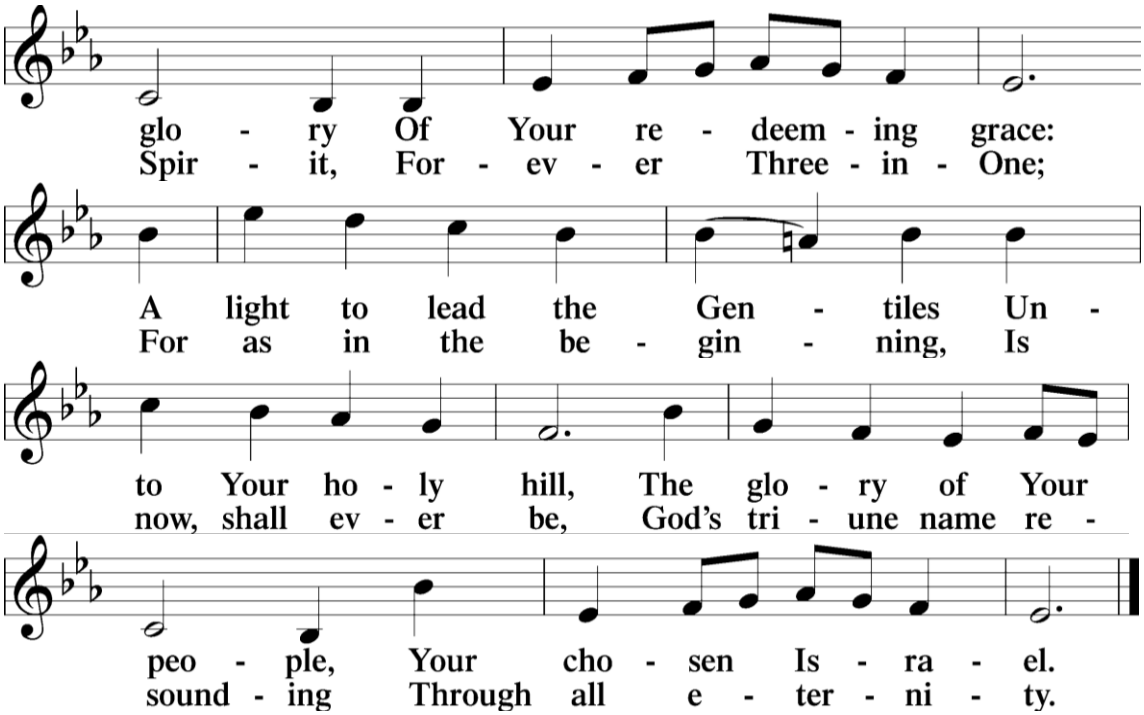
"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (WOV 754)



Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis





Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *[Psalm 103:1]*

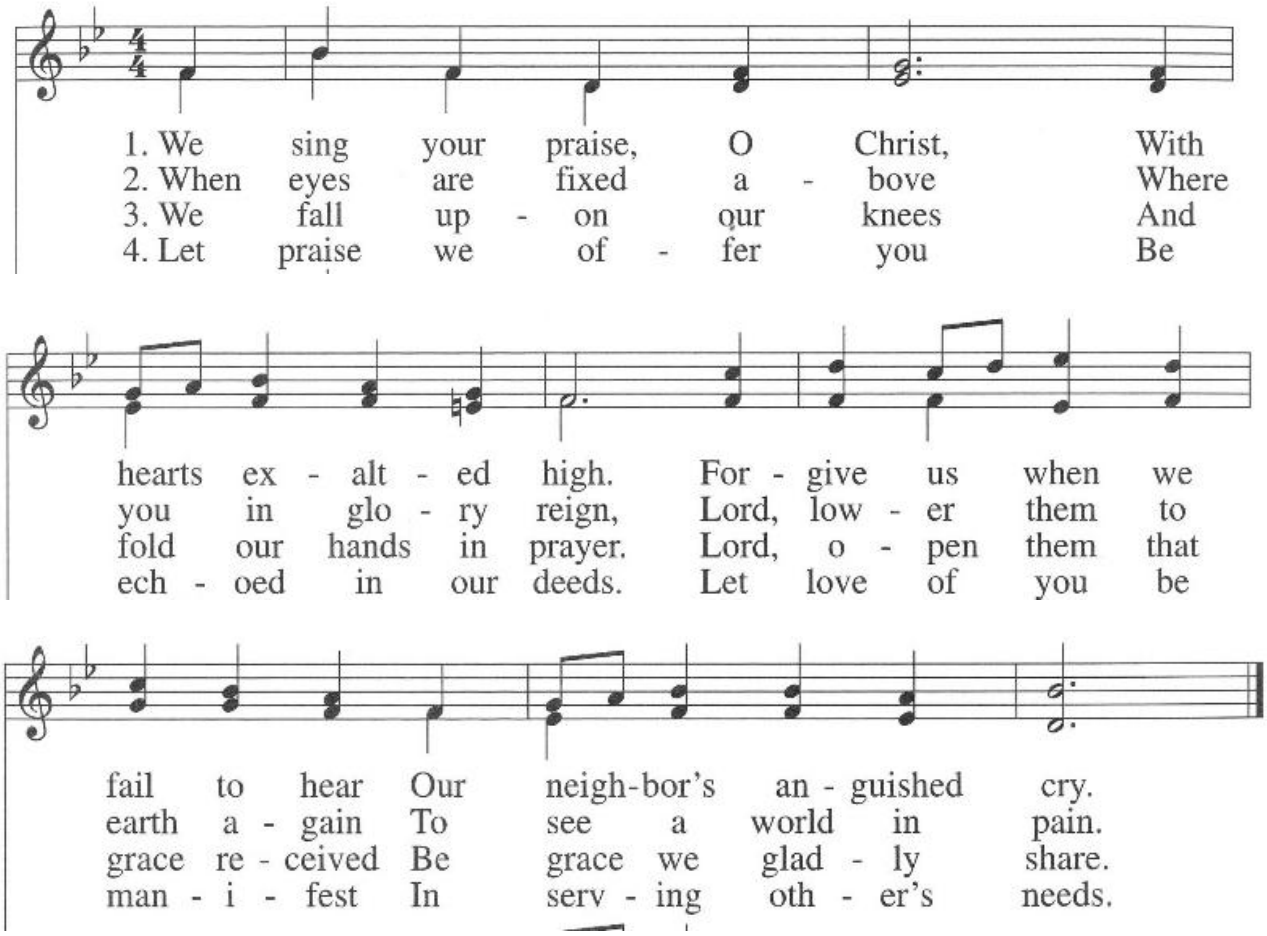
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C Amen.

Sending Hymn "We Sing Your Praise, O Christ" (GIA 93)



Postlude "Recessional on 'St. Anne'" (Gordon Young)

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Tish Nordvall
Communion Lay Assistant	Mike Nordvall
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Breanna Tillman
Crucifer	Sophie Wilson
Ushers	Jim Lofgren Paul Swicord
Altar Care	Maritza Guerra
AV Operator	Greg Auld Andrea Godwin
Welcome Host	Jan Swicord
Nursery	Sarah Koch Anita Bradford Lisa Goodell



This weekend's altar flowers are given by donations to the flower fund.

SCAN HERE TO

CONNECT WITH SJLC

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Give online

Read/Sign up for newsletters

Register or attend events/classes

Request for prayers

Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Church and ECEC Staff

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan	pastor.meehan@sjlc.com
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE	jennifer.hills@sjlc.com
Director of Music	David Leahey	david.leahey@sjlc.com
Office Administrator	Michelle May	office@sjlc.com
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith	finance@sjlc.com
Director of ECEC	Melinda Hale	ecec@sjlc.com
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells	ecec.admin@sjlc.com

Contact Us

Office: 703-971-2210
ECEC: 703-971-3581
Website: www.sjlc.com