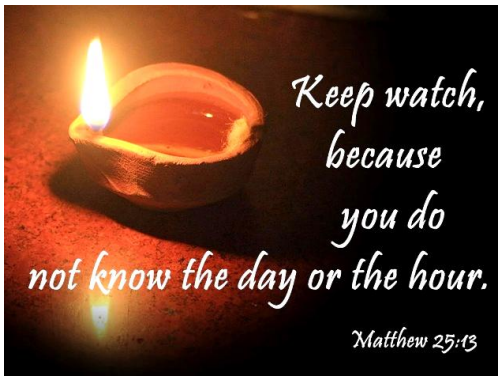


Sunday, November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion. *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for drinks, treats and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801
Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Church Office: 516.931.0710
Pastor Moira Ahearne 917.327.2119, (*email* ahearnem44@gmail.com)
Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (*email* ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com)
Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (*email* office@ststephenshicksville.com)
Mason Griffin, Minister of Music
Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StStephensHicksvilleNY

✠ GATHERING ✠

As the prelude begins, we invite you to conclude your conversations and join us in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship together.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Pause for silent reflection.

P Gracious God, **C 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 we have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!* (ELW 413)

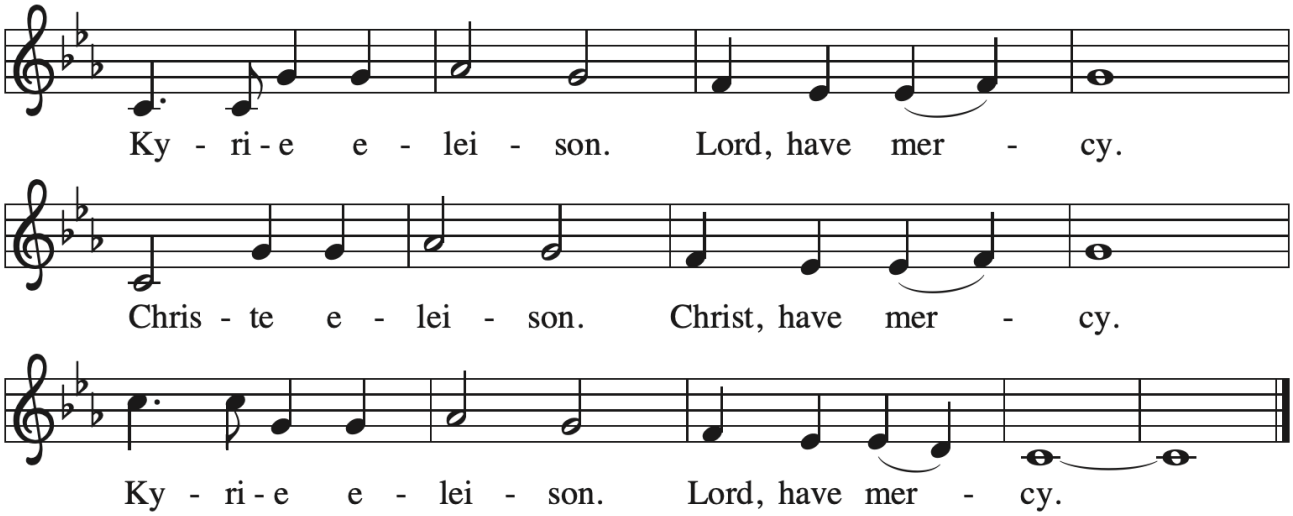


Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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 (ACS P.31)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: AMOS 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and
rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept
them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your
harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

…The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 70

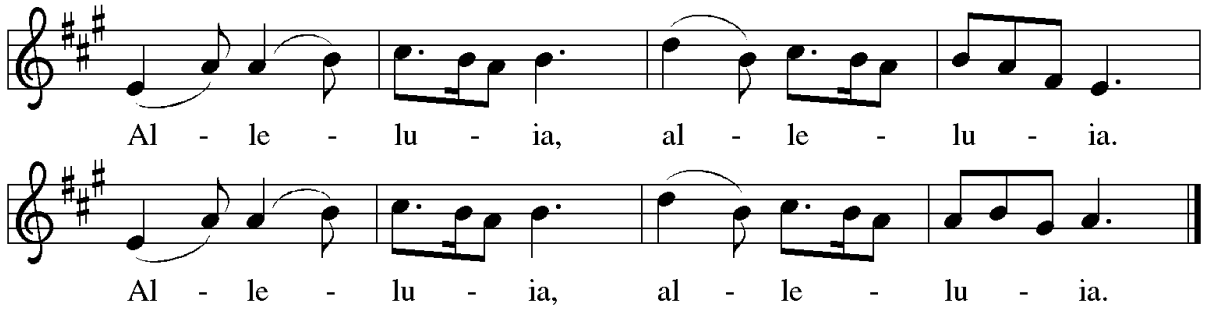


[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me; O LORD, make | haste to help me.
[2] **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R**
[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me turn back because | of their shame.
[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.
…The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1-13

P The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

…The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *SHINE, JESUS, SHINE* (ELW 671)



APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

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

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

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

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

A You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

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

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

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**
P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *LORD OF LIGHT* (ELW 688)



Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © Union of Welsh Independents
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

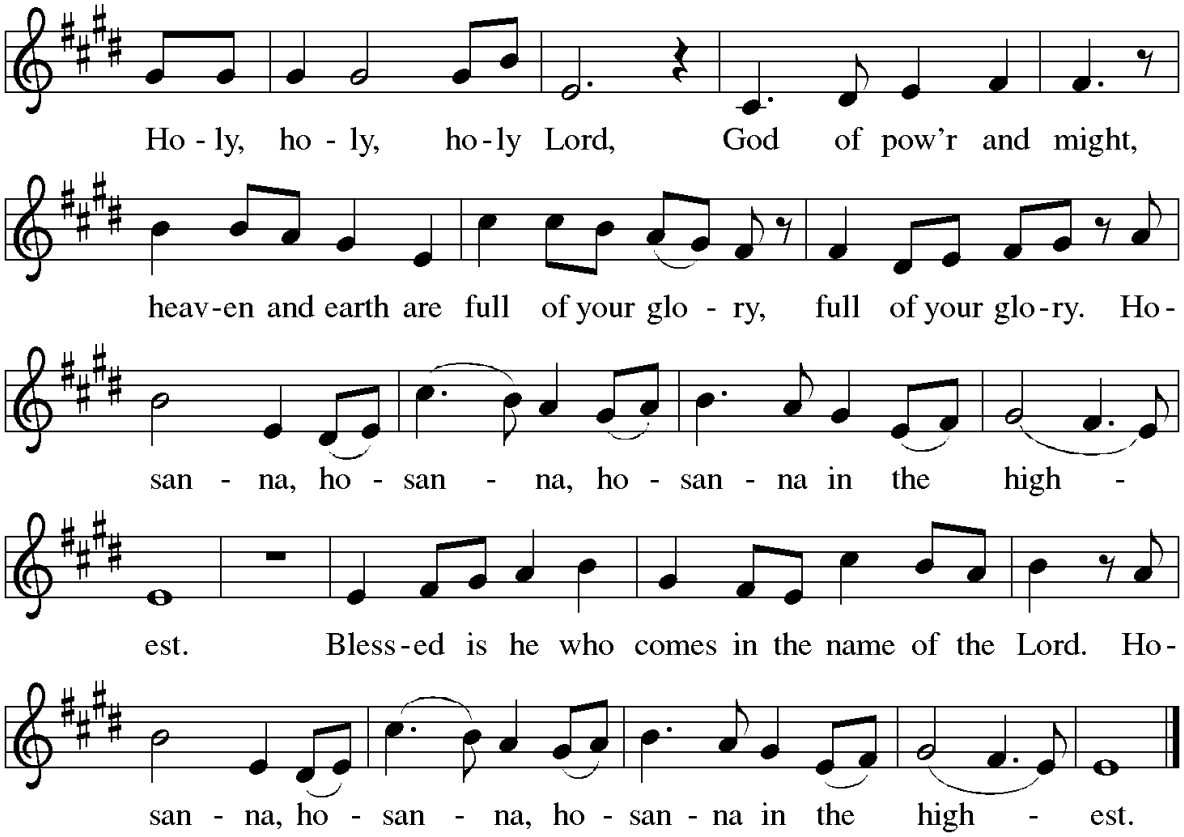
DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW P. 190)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

P Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

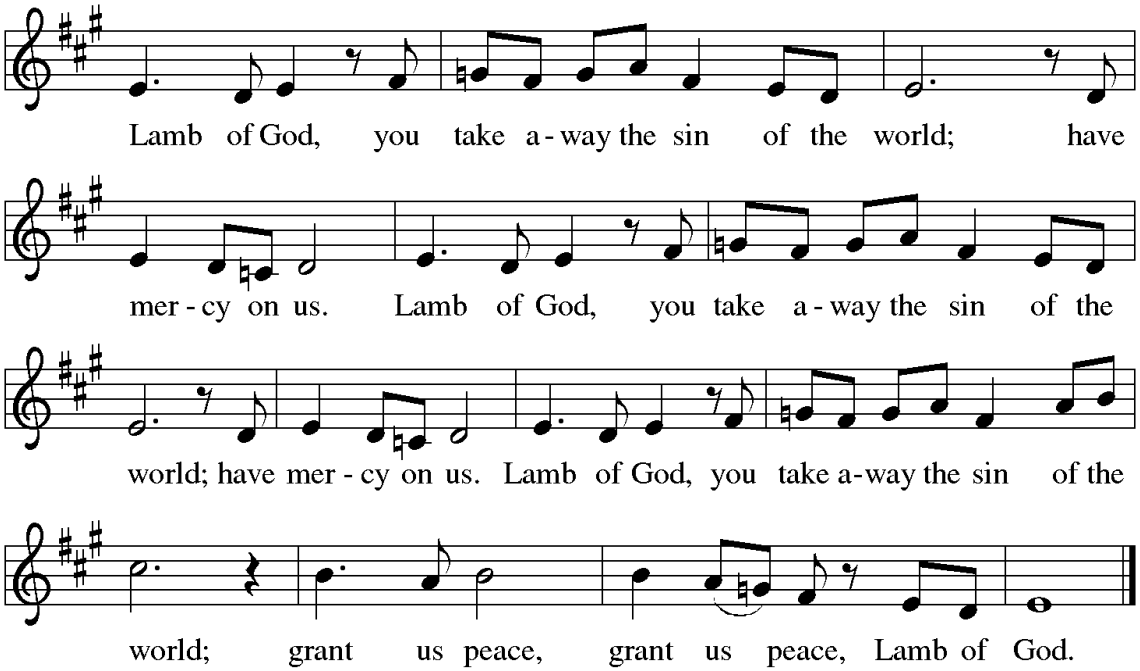
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: *YOU ARE MINE* (ELW 581)



Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: David Haas
Text and music © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

YOU ARE MINE
Irregular

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

P Blessed are you, O God. We trust that you will hold our dear friend Mason securely in your loving hands as he follows your call to new opportunities. May he carry with him a heart filled with your love and grace, and may you grant him wisdom, strength, and peace as he begins this new chapter of his journey. We give thanks for the music, fellowship, and gifts he has shared with us, and for the ways his music ministry has enriched our congregation. Guide his steps, surround him with your presence, and remind him that wherever life may lead, your love goes with him. **C Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

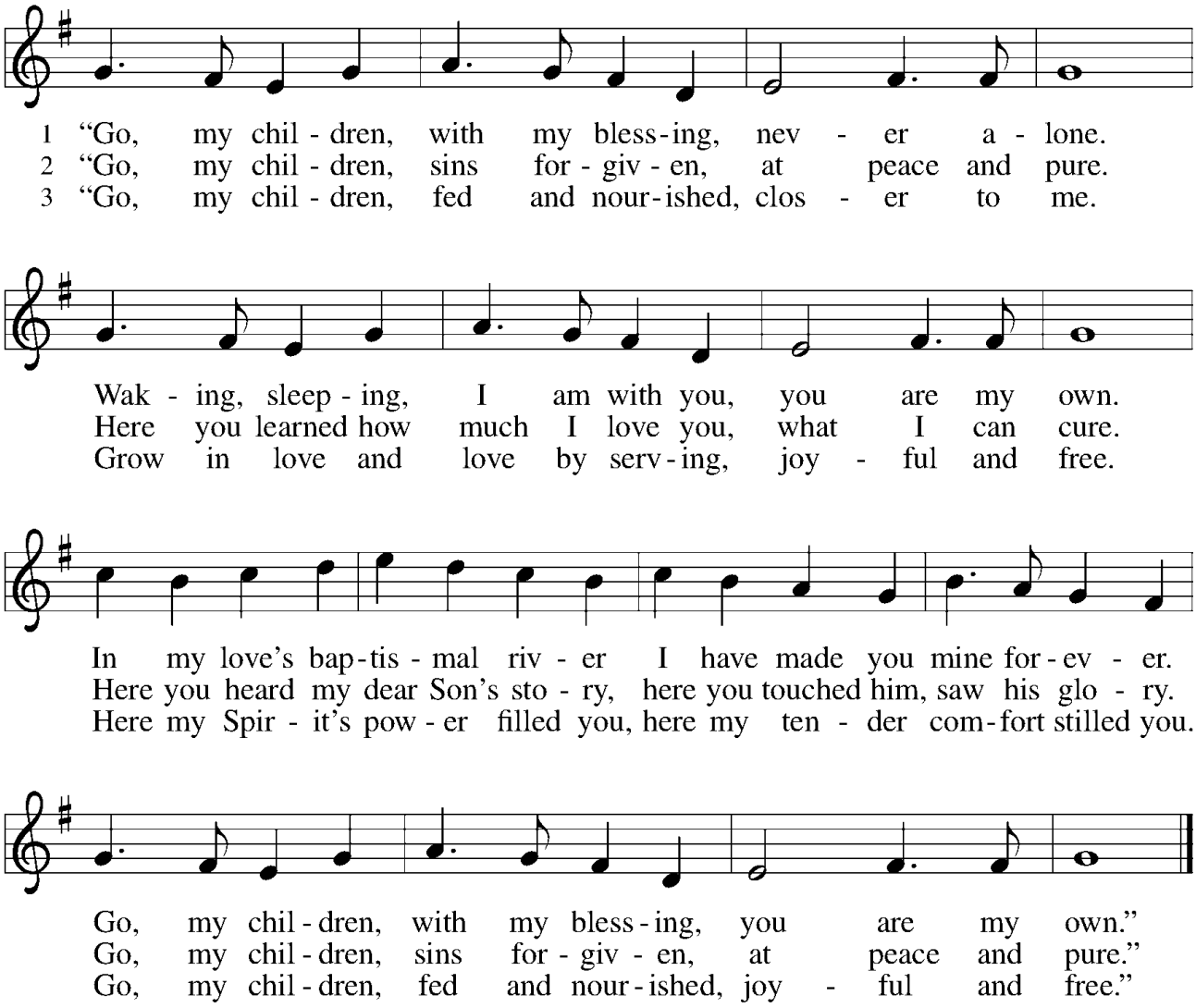
BLESSING

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

P The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING* (ELW 543)



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

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SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS | *November 8, 2026*



Sanctuary Lamp Candle for November is given to the glory of God, *in Memory of Ed Dressler* by Loretta Dressler, and *in Memory Arthur Hagner and Archie Ruland* by Joan Hagner

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AS WE BID MASON A FOND FAREWELL…

Please join us for a reception in the Pastor's Lounge following worship.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

- ✠ Check your mail boxes for information about our Annual Pledge! This is a vital part of how we plan our ministry, outreach, and operations for the year ahead. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support the mission and work of our church in the coming year. Your faithful generosity helps us continue sharing God's love in our community and beyond. Thank you for your continued support and stewardship!

MINISTRY & UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✠ **CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM**
  Join us as we share in the joy of the season by donating gifts to local families through our Christmas Giving Program. This year's program will follow last year's successful format. In the Narthex, you'll find a manger filled with gift tags - each one representing a wish from a child in need. We invite you to take one (or more!) tags, shop for the requested gift, & return it wrapped with the tag attached. **It has been requested by Lutheran Social Services that all gifts are wrapped and returned by December 5th.** Through your generosity, we can help make Christmas a little brighter for our neighbors in need.

- ✠ **Gentle Reminder**: we will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on 11/22 to review a draft of our 2027 budget and to address any questions and/or concerns that the congregation may have. Please join us in the pastors' lounge immediately after our worship service on the 22nd.

- ✠ **THE ANNUAL ADVENT WREATH PROGRAM**
  Sunday, Nov 29th | 5:00 PM in the Pastor's Lounge We are looking for people to help with the planning and the event itself. If you are interested - please email Beth Feeney. "Many hands make light work." (and create a fun evening)

- **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! JOIN THE CHURCH STREAMING TEAM!** Have you ever wanted to be part of the team that helps bring our worship services to people wherever they are? We're looking for volunteers to join our Church Streaming Team! Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before. Whether you are tech-savvy or just willing to learn, we'd love to have you on board. Interested volunteers should connect with Allison Barone, who will walk you through everything and get you comfortable with the process. Email: allison.barone@gmail.com Call or Text: 917-697-6811.

- **THE CHOSEN - *COME AND SEE***
  Next Scheduled Date: November 18th at 2:00 PM in the Pastor's Lounge - "The Chosen" offers an intimate look at the lives of Jesus and those around him, bringing the Bible to life through this historical drama. At each meeting, we'll watch one episode, followed by a discussion of the Scripture that inspired it.

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY - SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister	Barbara Engert	Greeter	Maureen O'Brien
Lector	Kimberly Snow McCarthy	Musical Director	Mason Griffin
Ushers	Rick Mosebach & Kevin Barcavage	Audio/Visual	Tyler LaVorgna
Acolyte	Kiko Reyes	Altar Guild	Allison Barone

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (Nov. 8th - Nov. 15th)

Day	*Event*	*Time*
Sunday, Nov. 8th	**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**	**Holy Communion 9:00 am**
	Reception for Mason	Following Worship
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tues, Nov. 10th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wed, Nov 11th	NA	7:00 pm
Thurs, Nov 12th	Property Committee Mtng	7:30 pm
Sunday, Nov. 15th	**24th Sunday after Pentecost**	**Holy Communion 9:00 am**

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. *Please remember to keep the office updated.*

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Kate Ahlers
Bill Artus
Joseph Barone
Christine Carlson
Dottie Eberhardt
Jane Ebersberger
Richard Engert
Jan Mosebach
Ilona Riggers
Ilse Zeeck

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinnie Aiello (*Husband of Laureen Aiello*)
Scott Berman (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Peter Denning (*Son-in-law of Lois Angstadt*)
James Ebersberger (*Brother of Jane Ebersberger*)
Sean Paul Farris (*Son of Melanie Farris*)
Helen Feeney (*Mother of John Feeney*)
Arleen Grimm (*Cousin of Maureen O'Brien*)
Sam Maurer (*Grandson of Nan and Bob Maurer*)
Jimmy Musi (*Brother of John Musi*)
Bernd Pfeiffer (*Brother of Christel LaVorgna*)
Laura Panaro (*Mother of Laureen Aiello*)
Jean Riolo (*Mother of Christine Carlson*)
Cecelia and Bruce Rudd (*Cousins of Bob Maurer*)
Steve Scala (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Lynn Sicilia (*Sister of Bill Artus*)
Susan Svensen (*Cousin of Dottie Eberhardt*)
Joann Tingwall (*Mother and Mother-in-law of Neil and Tanya Tingwall*)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Anita (*Friend of the Pendas/Ahlers Family*)
Richard & Gertrude Abele (*Friends of Joan Hagner*)
Red Abrams (*Friend of Laureen Aiello*)
Jennifer Amiruddin (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Family & Friends of Dave Bernacchi (*Friend of the Pendas/Ahlers Family*)
Bill (*Friend of Bob & Nan Maurer*)
Alice Brahs (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Fred Feldt (*Friend of the Muller/Shurman Families*)
Michael Garofalo (*Friend of Kerri Staton*)
Ellen Grace (*High school friend of Joan Hagner*)
Kathleen Hagen (*Friend of the Panaro and Aiello Families*)
Carol Heinz (*Friend of Joan Hagner*)
John Judge (*Friend of Jane Ebersberger*)
Jenn Logan and her Mother Barbara (*Friends of Janet Muller*)
Ellen Motoi (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Bruce Muhlenbruck (*Friend of The LaVorgna Family*)
Paul (*Friend of Allison Barone*)
Betty, John and Mary Beth Ott (*Friends of Jane Ebersberger*)
The Family and Friends of Arthur Schrader (*Friends of Vicki Maxey*)