

Sunday, November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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)
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 God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

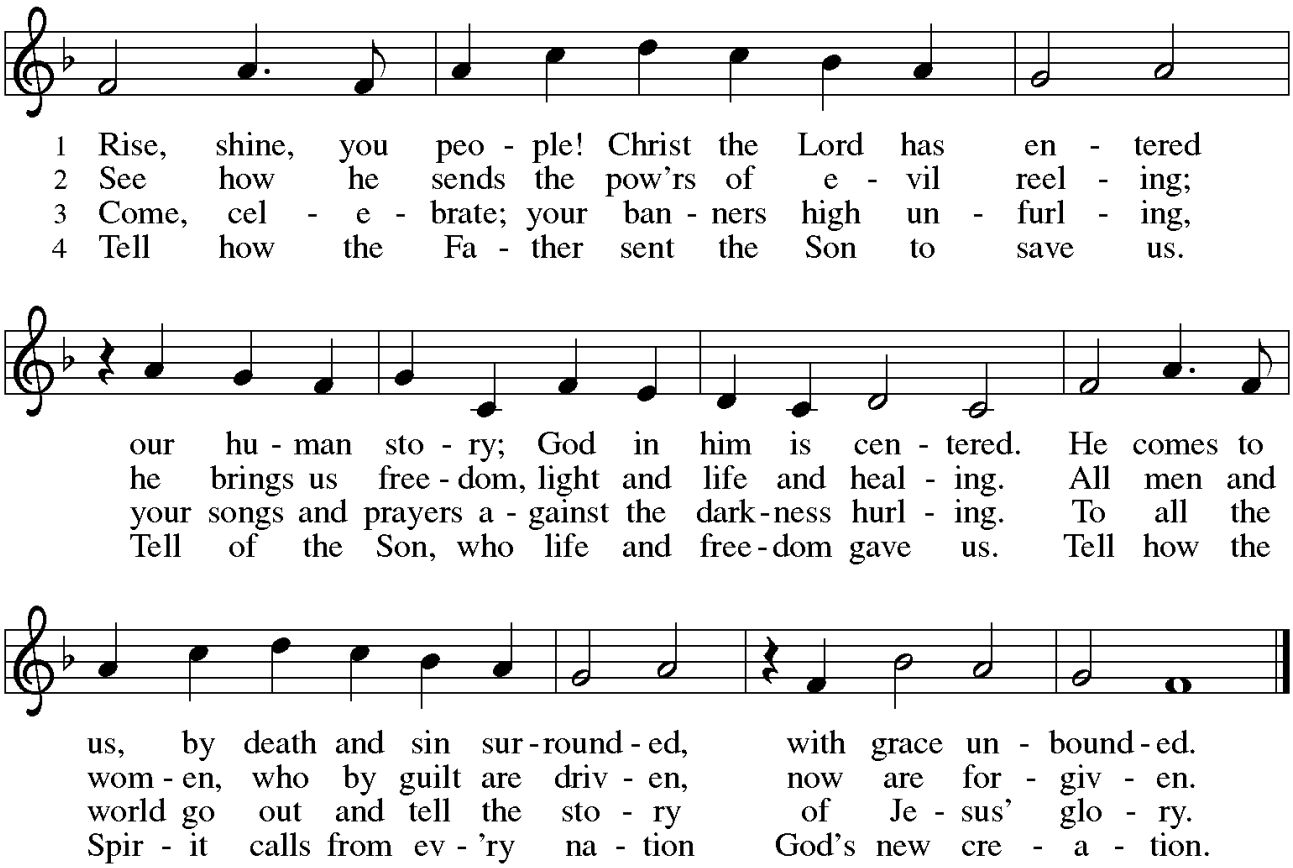
P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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: *RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE!* (ELW 665)
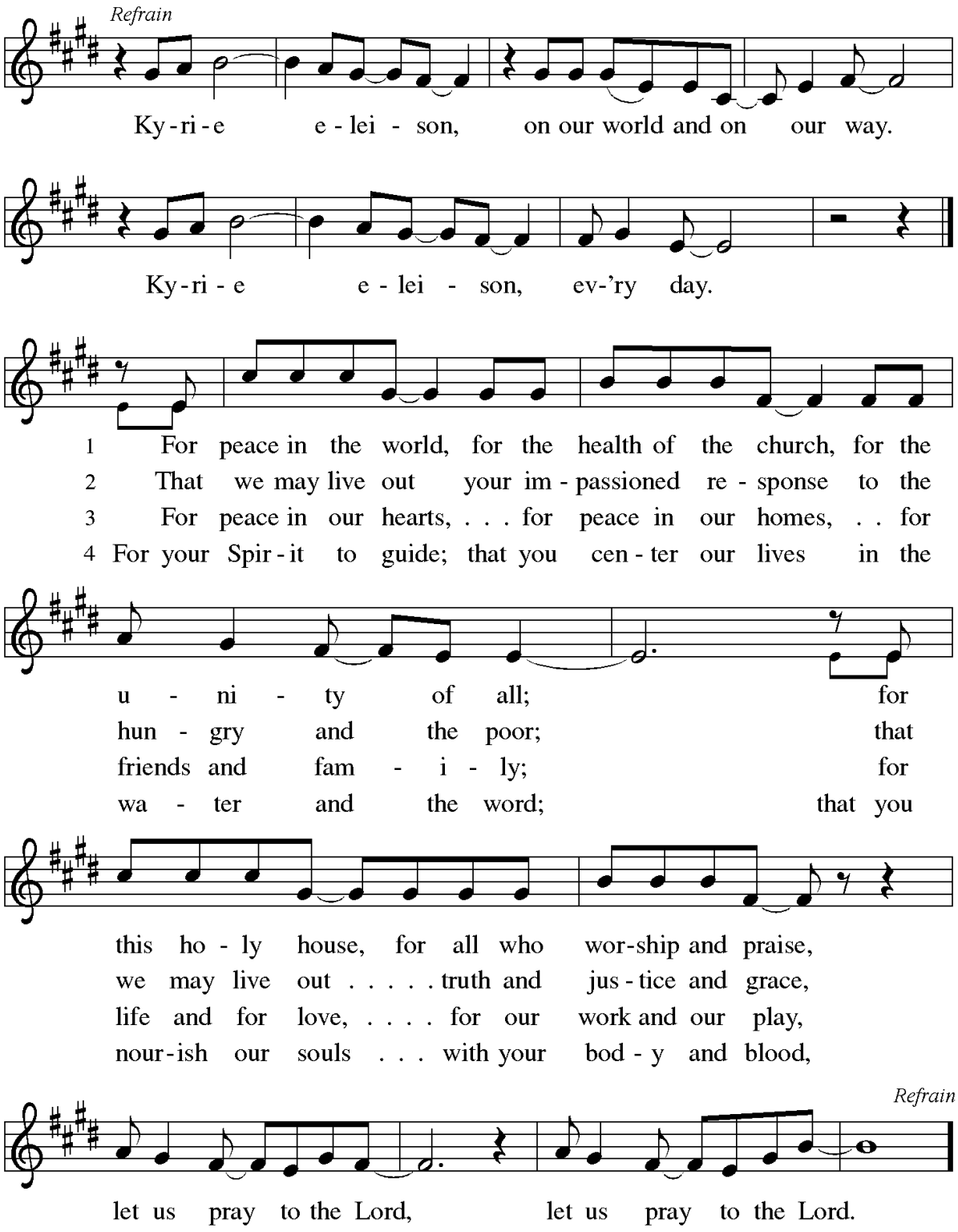


Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18
A reading from Zephaniah.

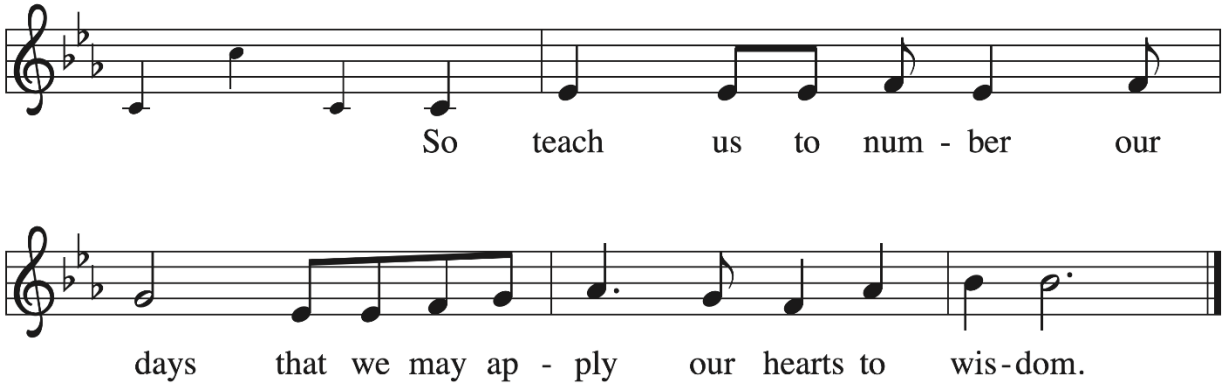
7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle
like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he
do harm." 13 Their wealth 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 warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, 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.

17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they
have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like
dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's
wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible
end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
…The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 90



1 Lord, you have | been our refuge from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**

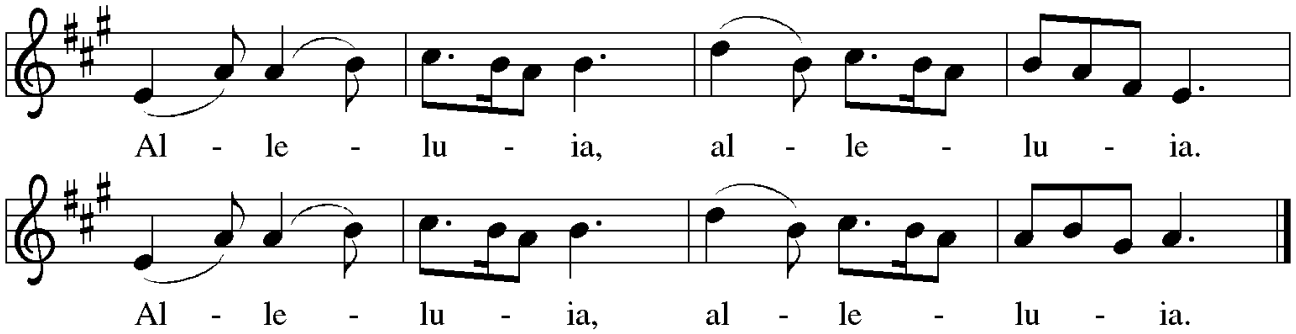
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say, "Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past and like a watch | in the night; R**
5 you sweep them away | like a dream, they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed | by your anger; we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you, and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R**
9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone; we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath? Who rightly fears your | indignation?
12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R**

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then
sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let
us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk
get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who
died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
…The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

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

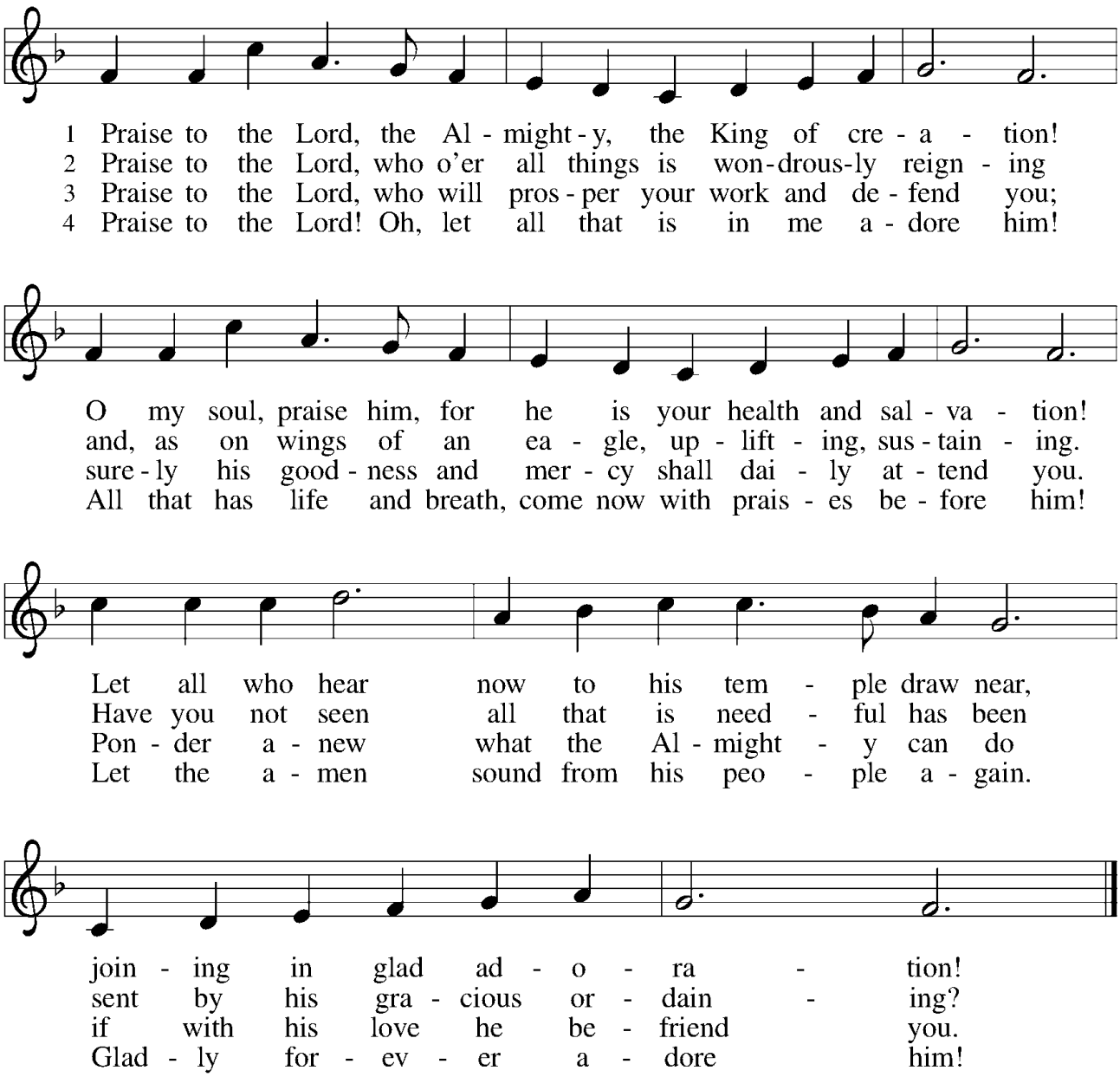
Jesus said to the disciples: [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

…The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY* (ELW 858)



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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 build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. 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

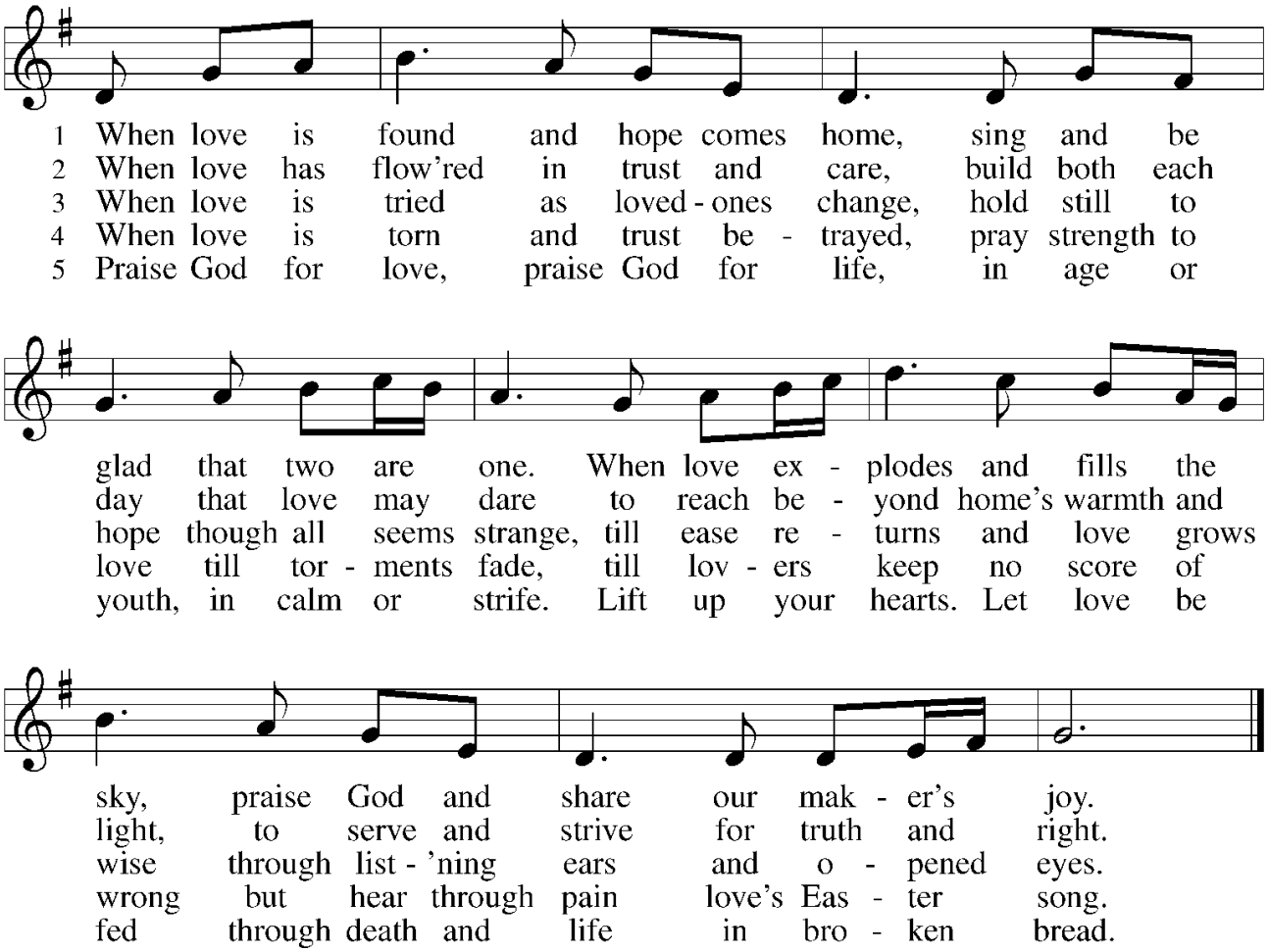
P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**
P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *WHEN LOVE IS FOUND* (WOV 749)



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

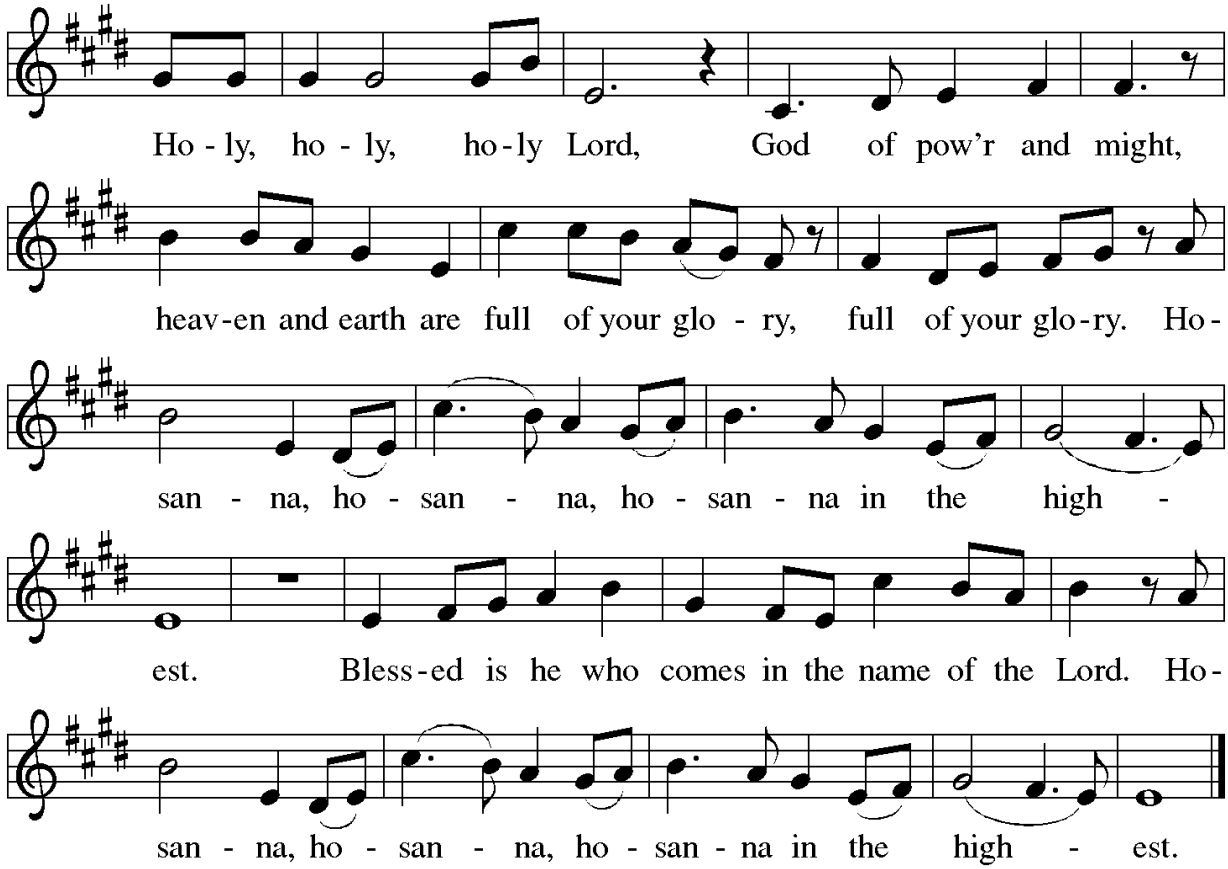
DIALOGUE

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



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

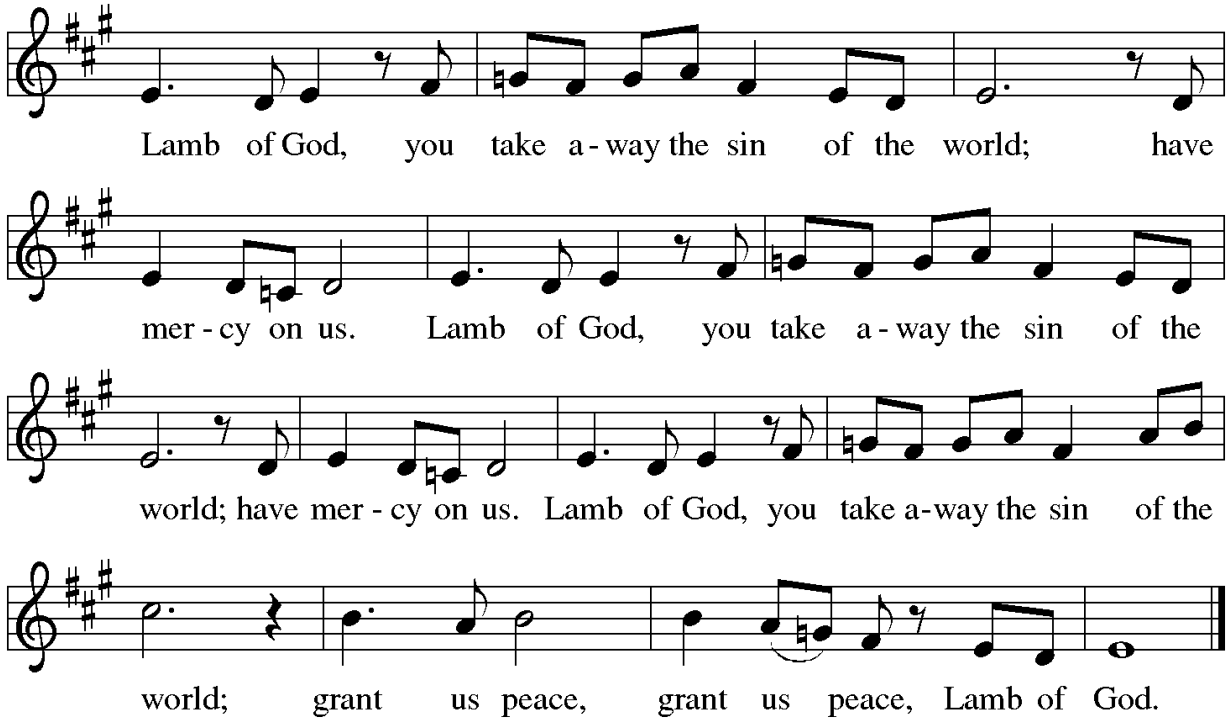
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

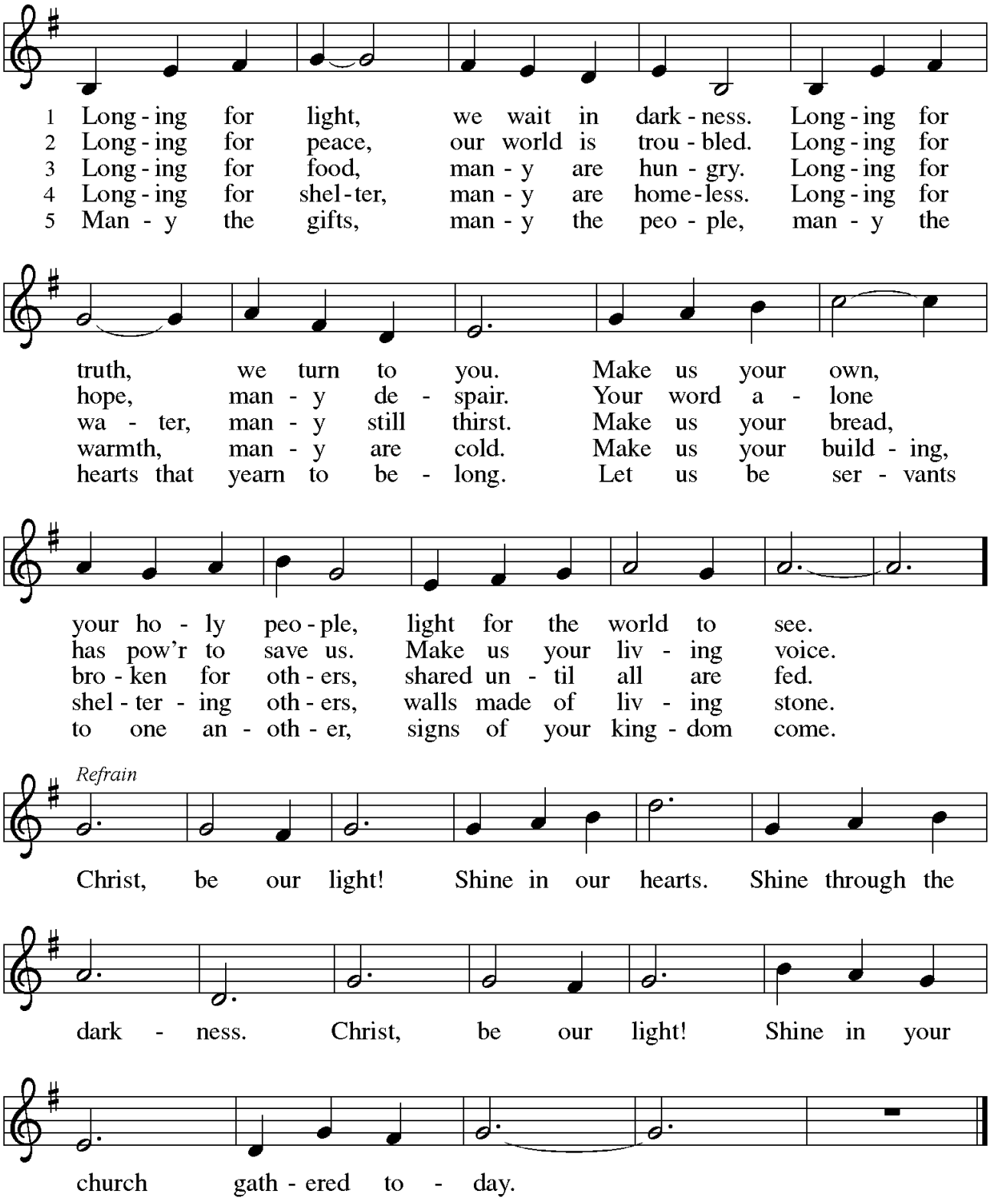
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: *CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT* (ELW715)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **C Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

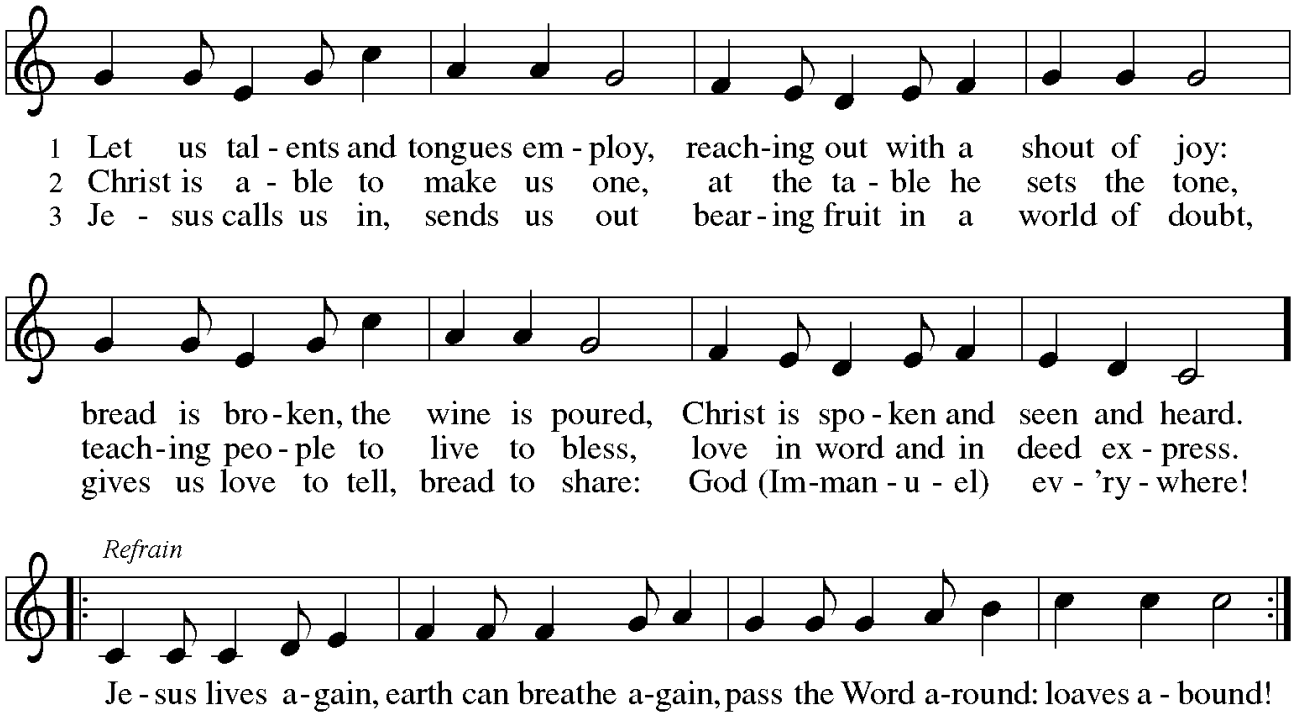
BLESSING

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: *LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY* (ELW 674)



DISMISSAL

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

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SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS | *November 15, 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

A WARM WELCOME ♪♪ ♥ ♪♪

We welcome ***Canaan Harris*** as our supply pianist this morning. We are grateful for his presence and for sharing his musical gifts in worship today! 🎹 ♪♪

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

- We hope you've received our Annual Pledge information in the mail! 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! **Please place your form in the offering plate or return to the church office by November 29th!**

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. Through your generosity, we can help make Christmas a little brighter for our neighbors in need. **It has been requested by Lutheran Social Services that all gifts are wrapped and returned by November 29th.**

- **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 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.



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)



Serving at Worship today - Sunday, 9:00 AM

Assisting Minister	Christine Goetzger-Sedlak	Greeter	Kimberly Snow McCarthy
Lector	Bill Artus	Ushers	Rick Mosebach & Mark Hammaren
Acolyte	Grant Goetzger	Audio/Visual	Tyler LaVorgna
Altar Guild	Allison Barone	Supply Pianist	Canaan Harris

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (Nov. 15th - Nov. 22nd)

Day	*Event*	*Time*
Sunday, Nov. 15th	**25th Sunday after Pentecost**	**Holy Communion 9:00 am**
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
Tues, Nov. 17th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wed, Nov 18th	The Chosen	2:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Thurs, Nov 19th	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 22nd	**Christ The King**	**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
Richard Engert
Jan Mosebach
Ilona Riggers
Ilse Zeeck

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinnie Aiello (*Husband of Laureen Aiello*)
Scott Berman (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Carter (*Great Grandson 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*)
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*)