

Sunday, November 22, 2026
Christ the King

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

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)
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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.**

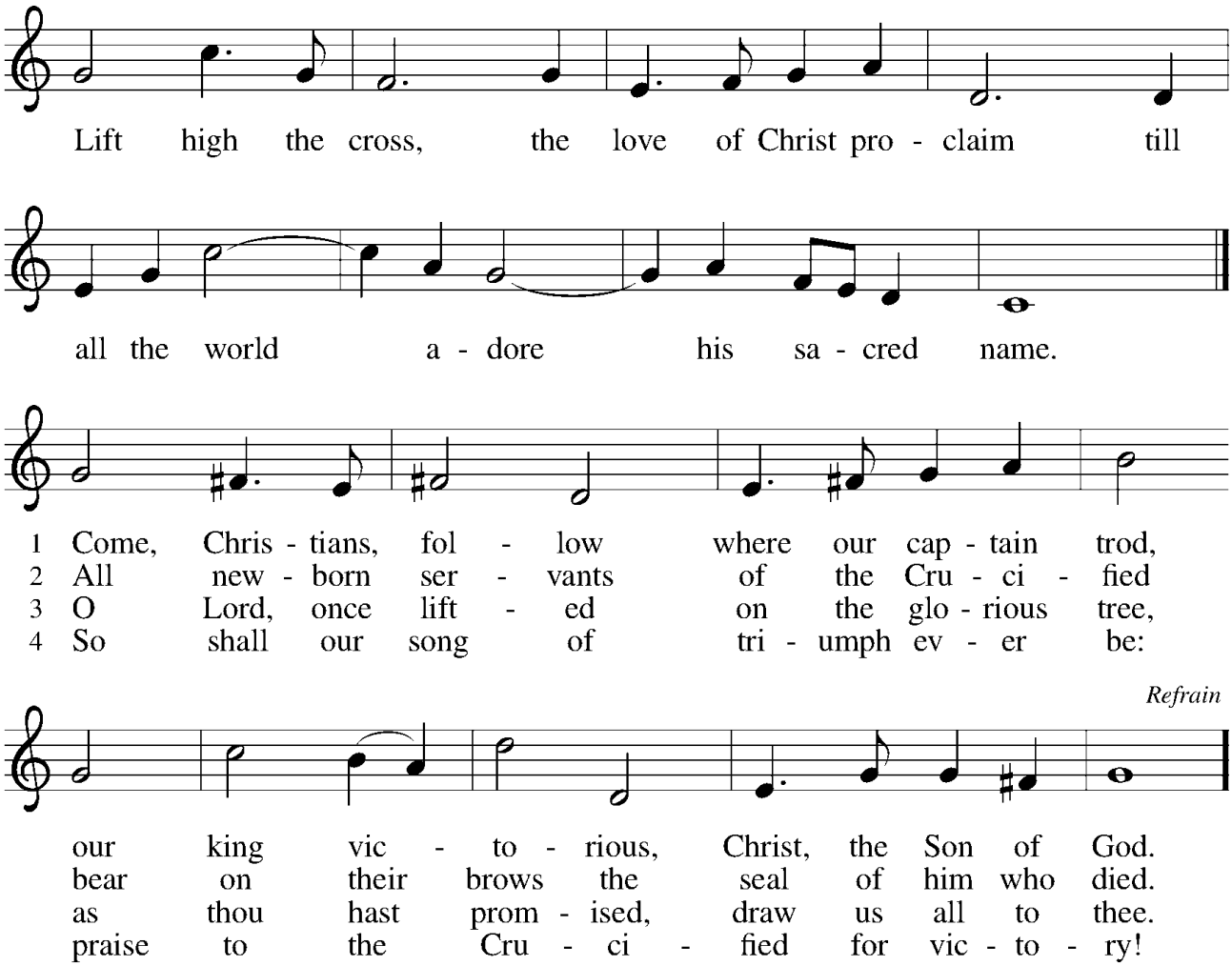
P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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: *LIFT HIGH THE CROSS* (ELW 660)



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24
A reading from Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day
of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them
from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the
mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will
feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the
mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them
lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I
will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will
destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all
the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my
flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he
shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my
servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.
…The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 95:7

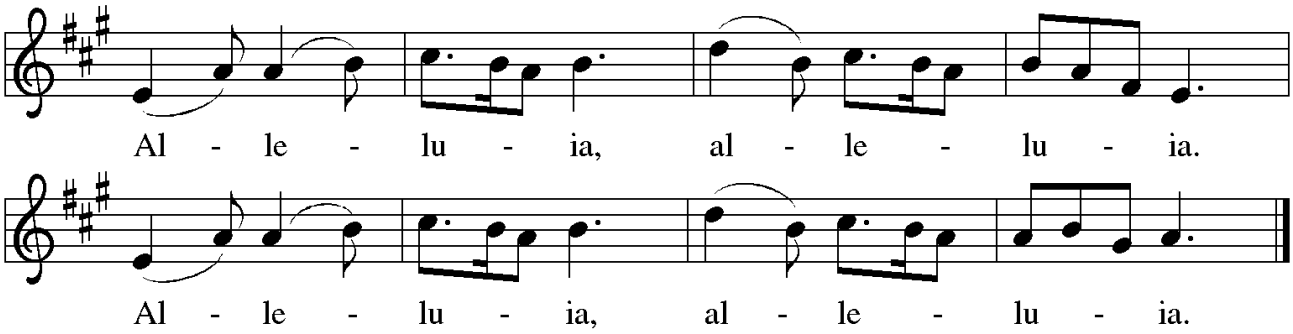


1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God, and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth; the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it, and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down, let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**
7a For the LORD | is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:15-23
A reading from Ephesians.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for
this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers,
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of
wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart
enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable
greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him
at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and
dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to
come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all
things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
…The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31-46
P The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

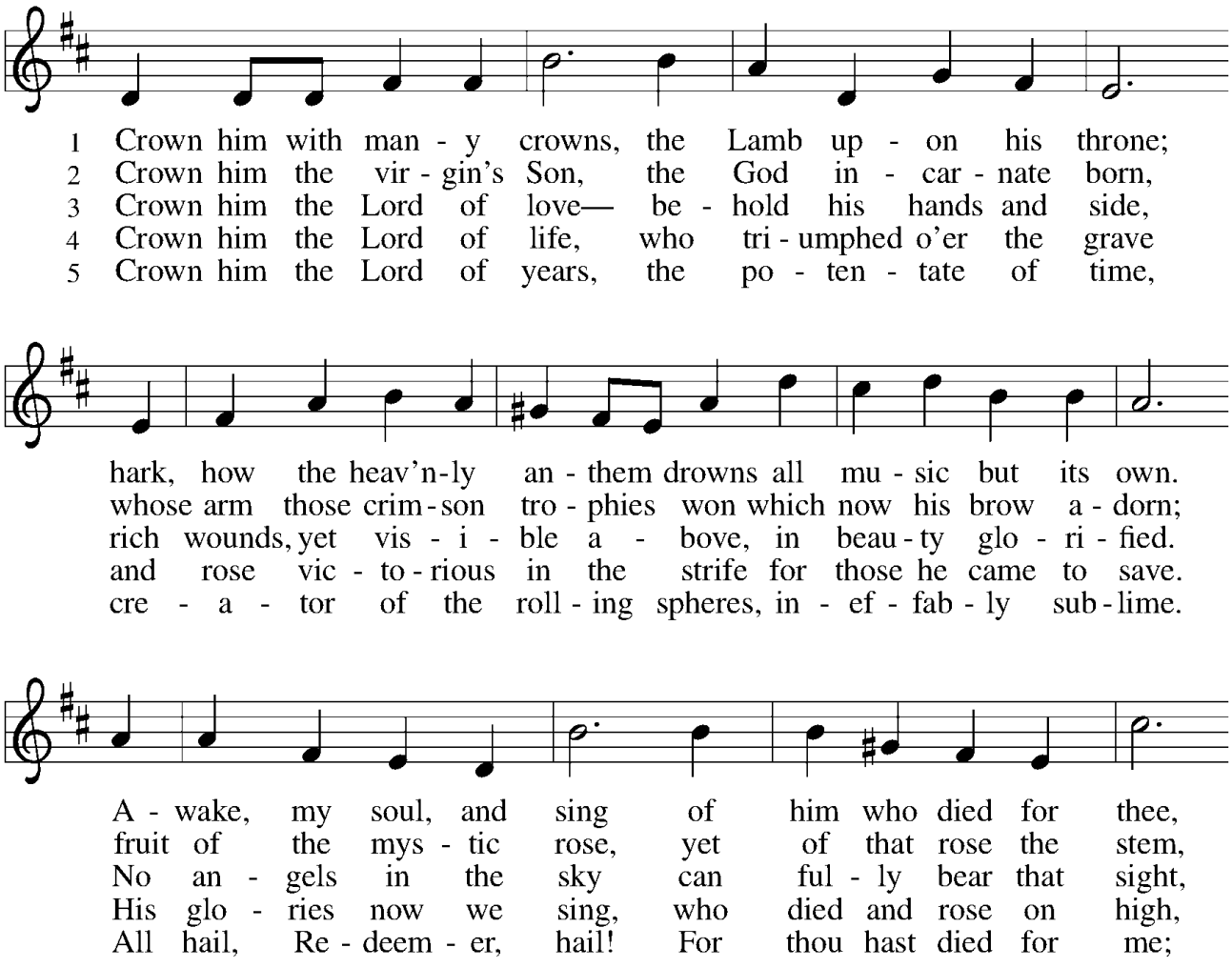
Jesus said to the disciples: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels
with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered
before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the
sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the
left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by
my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I
was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I
was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was
sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous
will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty
and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and
welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick
or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as

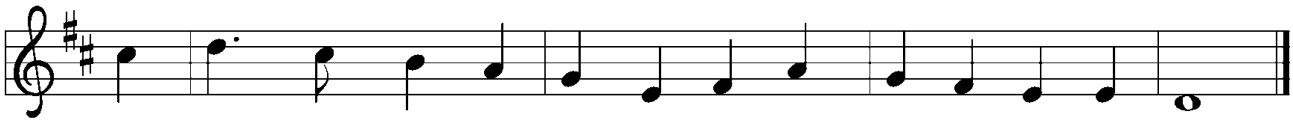
you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’
41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into
the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me
no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did
not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did
not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ 45 Then
he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these,
you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the
righteous into eternal life.”

…The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS* (ELW 855)





and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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 Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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

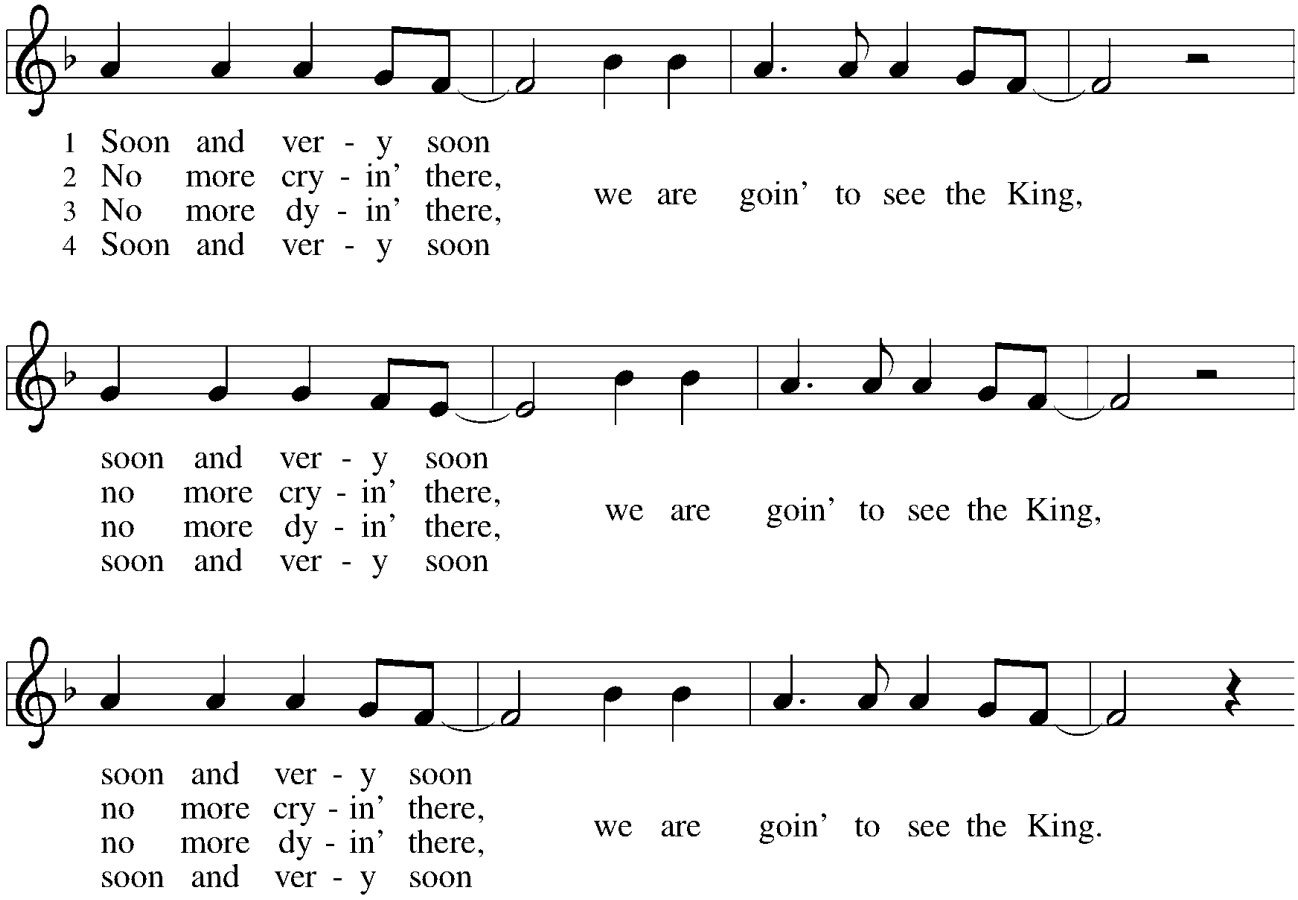
P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**
P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

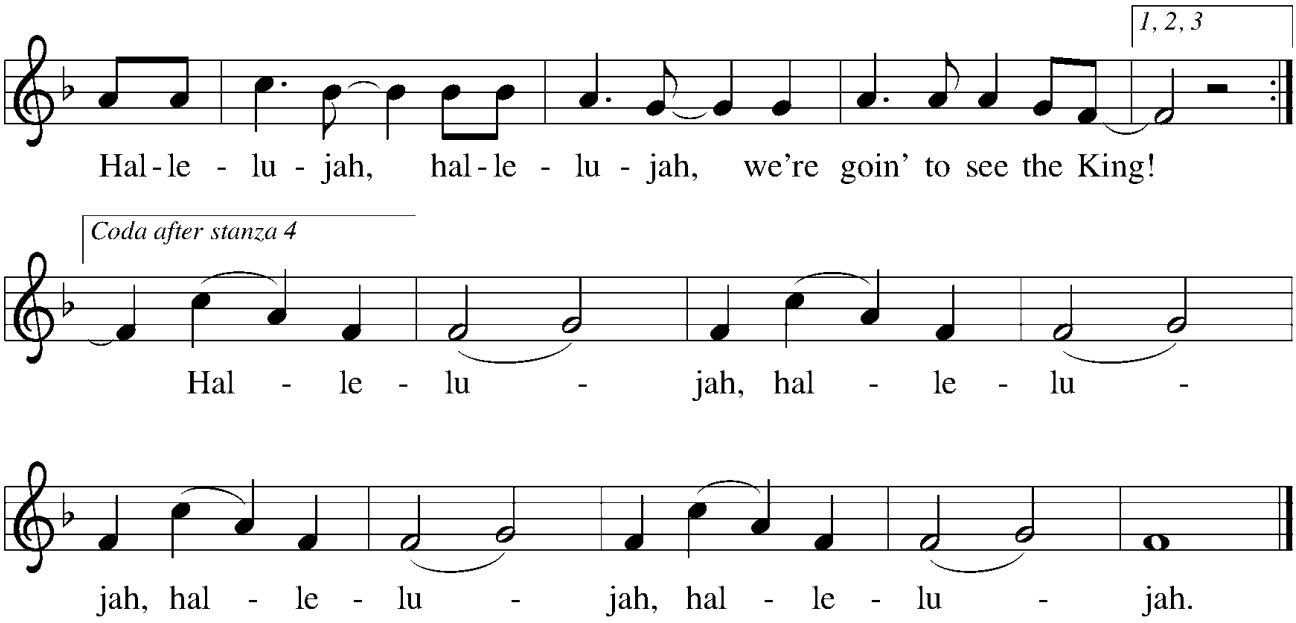
ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *SOON AND VERY SOON* (ELW 439)





Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

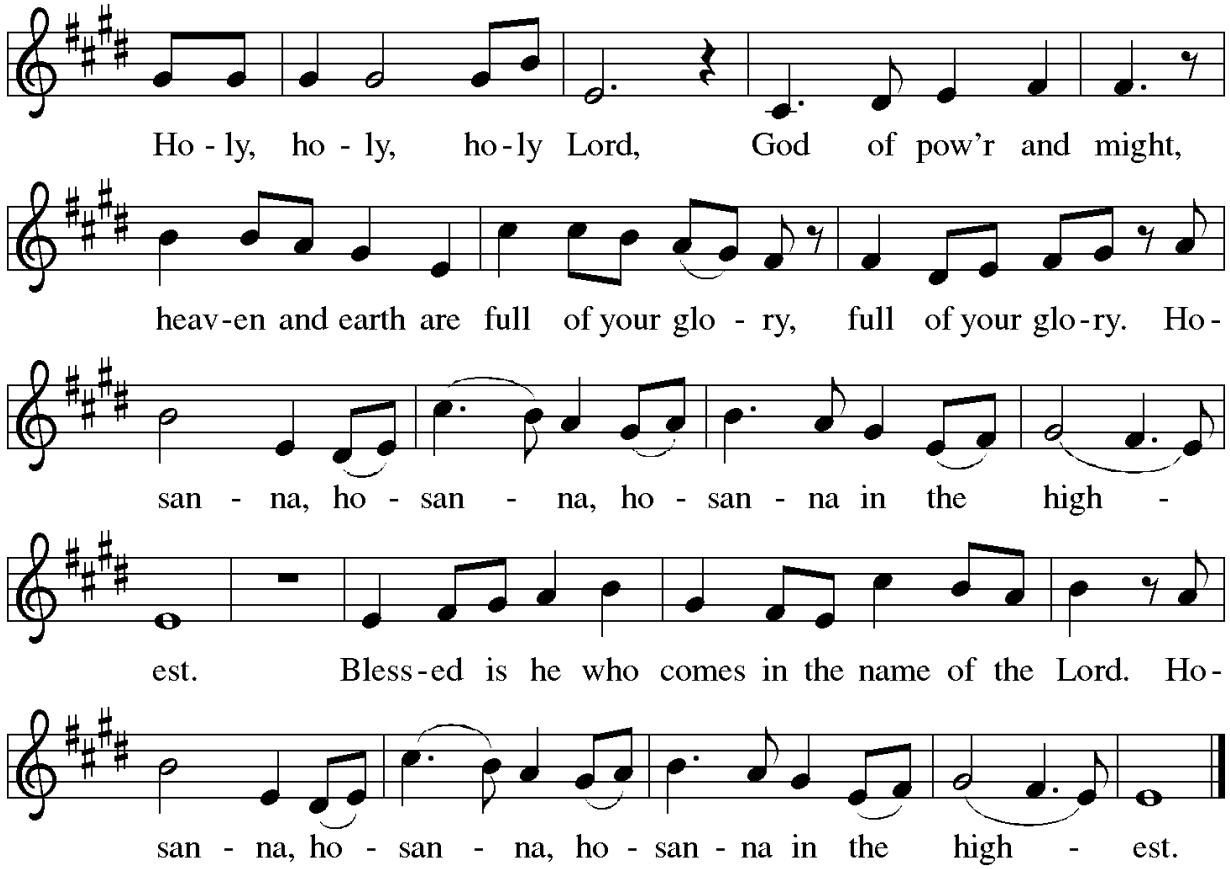
DIALOGUE

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

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and 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

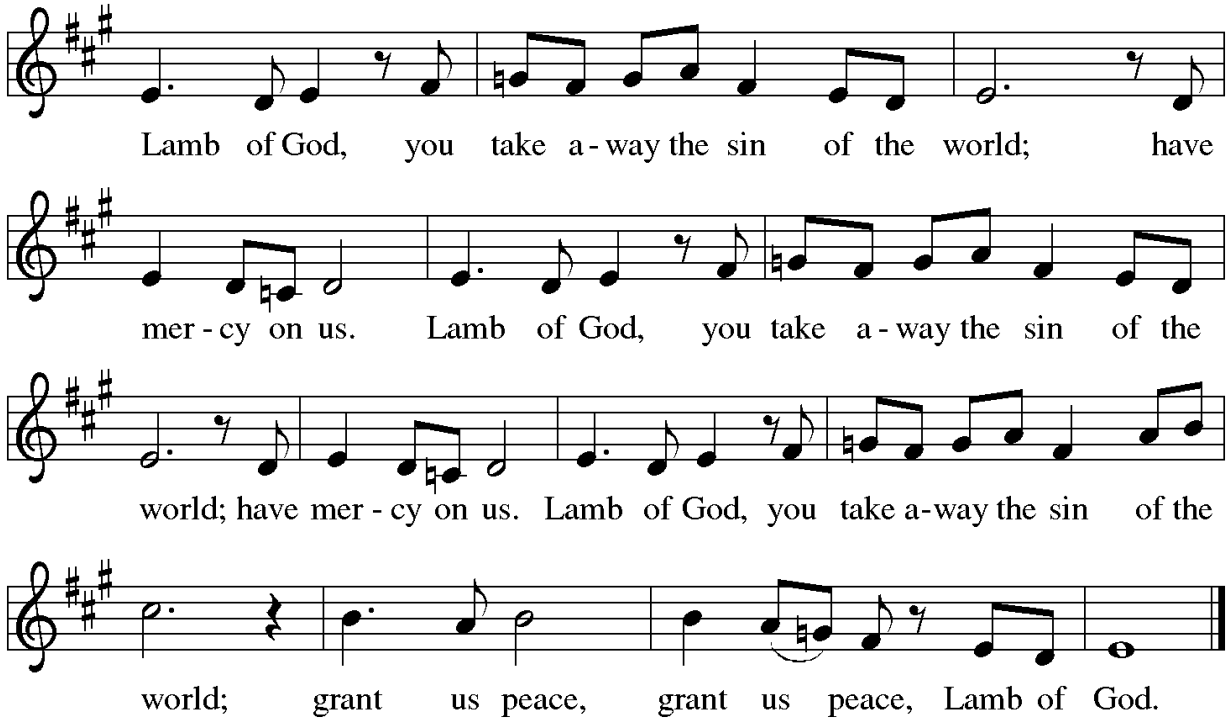
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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: *JESUS SHALL REIGN* (ELW 434)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

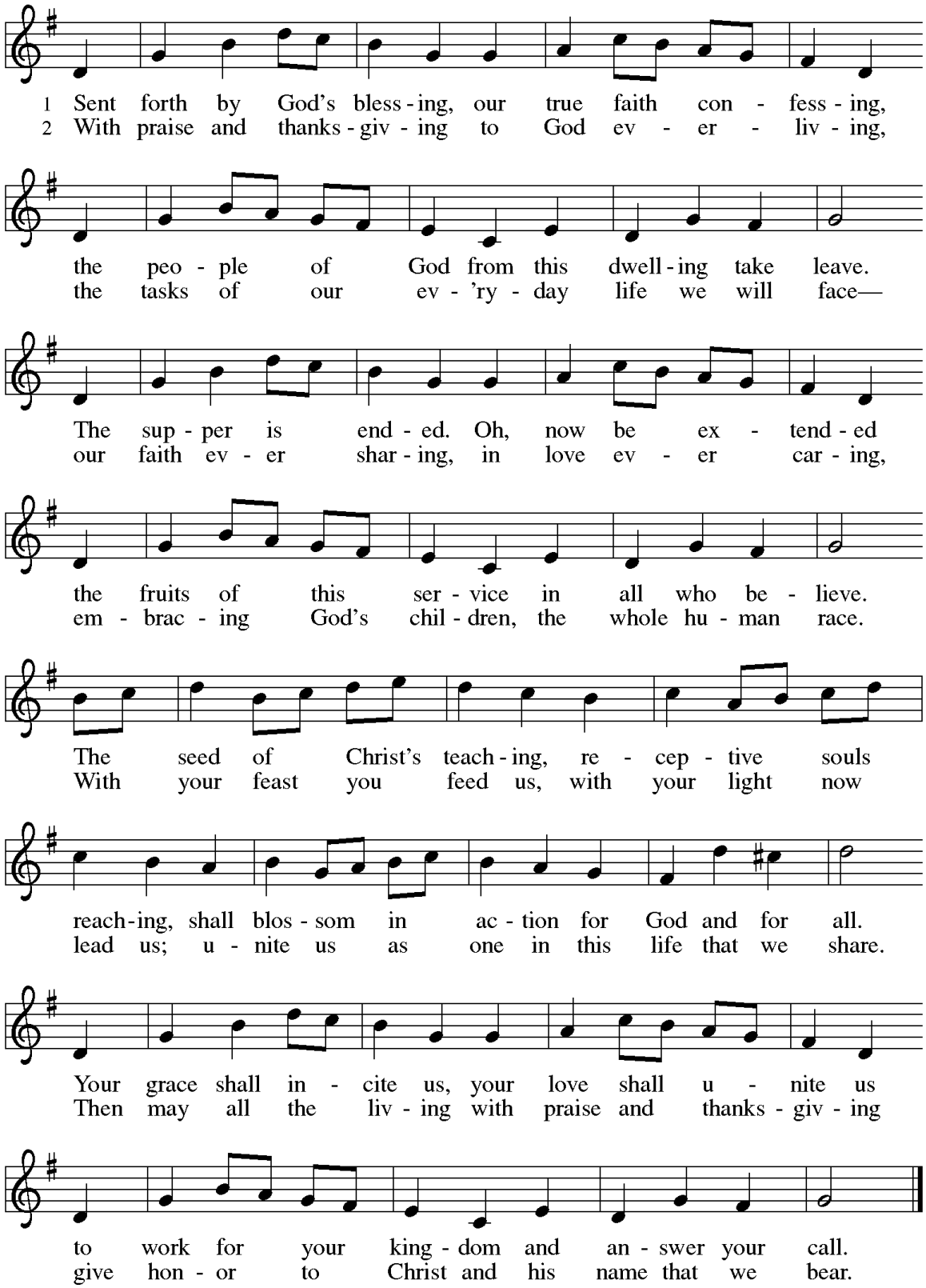
P Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C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

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING* (ELW 547)



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100
Monday, November 23, 2026
Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927
Monday, November 23, 2026
Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748
Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

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SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS | *November 22, 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



Altar Flowers for today are given to the glory of God, and in Memory of Ed Dressler by Loretta Dressler

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM WELCOME ♪♫ ♥ ♪♫

We welcome ***Christian McCleer*** as our supply musician this morning. We are grateful for his presence and for sharing his musical gifts in worship today! 🎹 ♪♫

HEADS UP - OR SHOULD WE SAY KNEES DOWN?

- Starting Sunday November 29th through Christmas morning, Holy Communion will be distributed while kneeling or standing at the altar rail.

TOWN HALL TODAY!

- We will be reviewing a draft of our 2027 budget and will address any questions and/or concerns that the congregation may have. Please join us in the pastors' lounge immediately after our worship service.

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 ALTAR PLANTS & GREENS**
  Christmas is drawing near, and our sanctuary will soon be filled with the beauty of poinsettias! If you'd like to order one in honor or memory of someone special, the form is available on the table in the Narthex. Please return your order/dedication by Sunday, December 13th.

✠ **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.**



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	Barbara Engert	Greeter	Ann Casey
Lector	Jaclyn Sacco	Ushers	Kevin Barcavage & Bill Artus
Acolyte	Kiko Reyes	Audio/Visual	Tyler LaVorgna
Altar Guild	Allison Barone	Supply Musician	Christian McCleer

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (Nov. 22nd - Nov. 29th)

Day	*Event*	*Time*
Sunday, Nov. 22nd	**Christ The King**	**Holy Communion 9:00 am**
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Town Hall Meeting	Following Worship
	Satsang With A Smile	2:00 pm
Tues, Nov. 23rd	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wed, Nov. 24th	Thanksgiving Eve Service	7:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Friday, Nov. 27th	Office Closed	Happy Thanksgiving!
Sunday, Nov. 29th	**1st Sunday of Advent**	**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*)
Bindu Raju (*Friend of the Ahlers/Pendas Family*)
The Family and Friends of Arthur Schrader (*Friends of Vicki Maxey*)