Peace Lutheran Church
ELCA
Springfield, Illinois

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 8

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or online we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

INTRODUCTION

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. 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE **Morning Tribute** Brenda Peck

*(Each * indicates that you are invited to stand.)*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered together by the breath and Spirit of God in this time and place. As we begin our worship, we acknowledge that we are currently meeting on the ancestral and traditional homelands of the Indigenous peoples who were the original stewards of this land. This beautiful land on which Peace Lutheran is located falls within the ancestral and treaty territories of several Indigenous nations, including the Peoria, *Oceti Sakowin*, Sauk, Fox, Miami, Kickapoo, and Kaskaskia peoples. We honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home. The waters which have been stewarded by and sustained these people for thousands of years are the waters many of us are baptized in.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

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

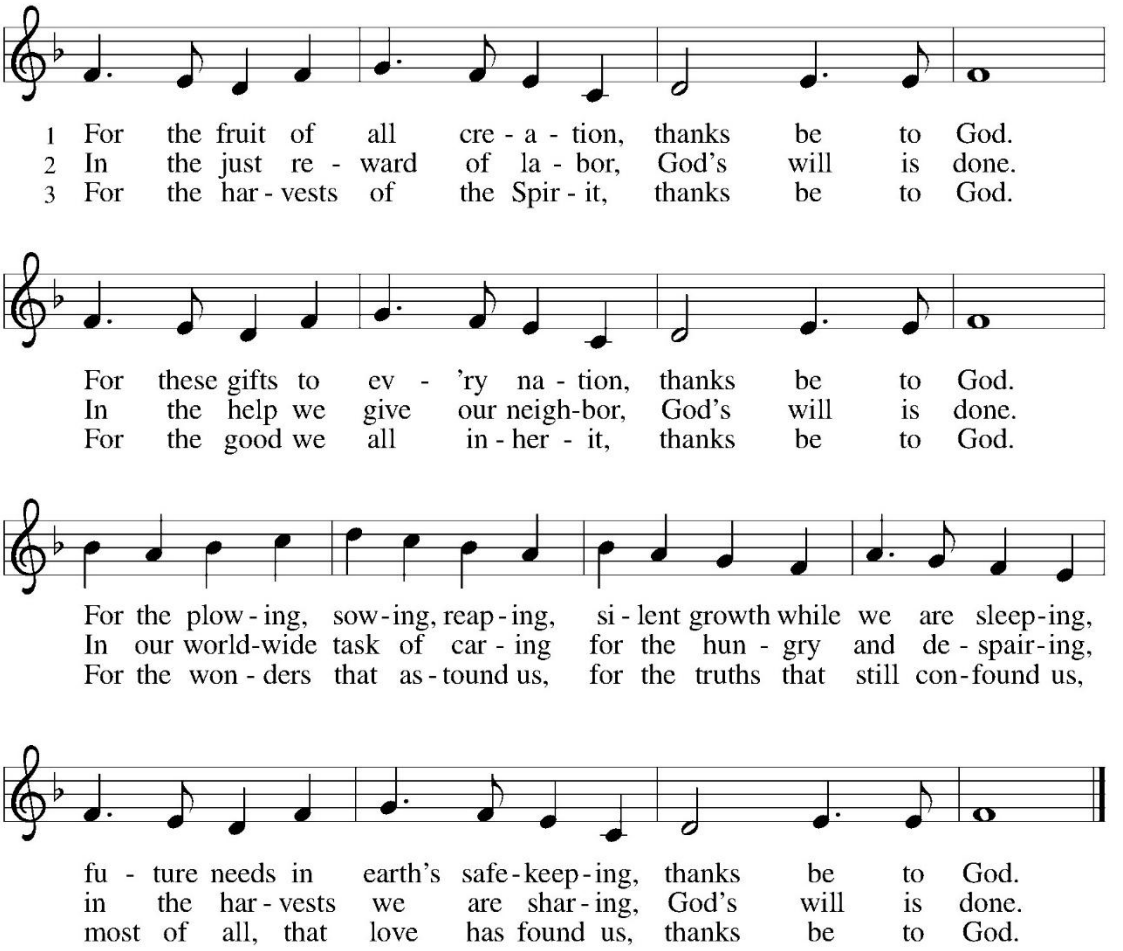
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

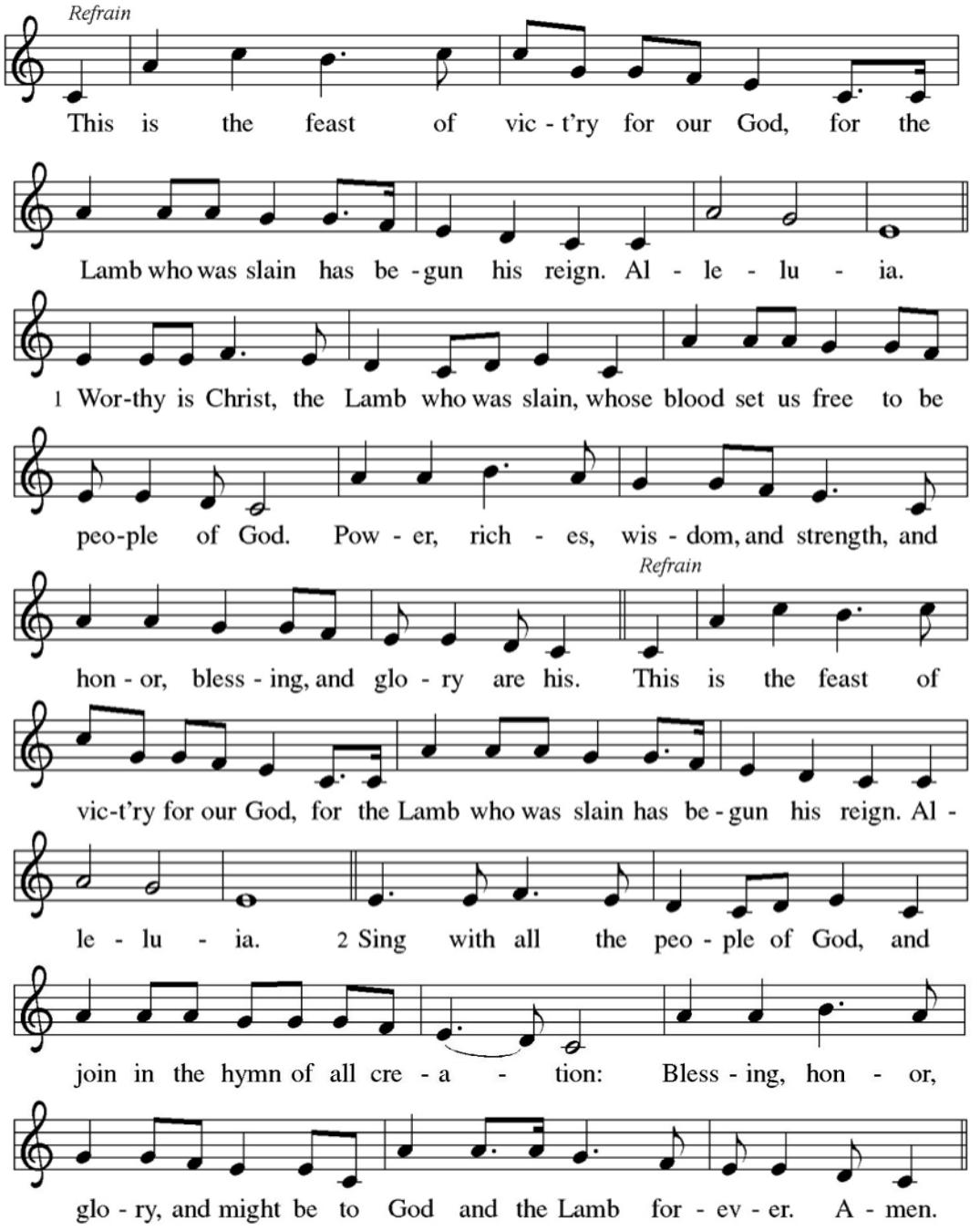
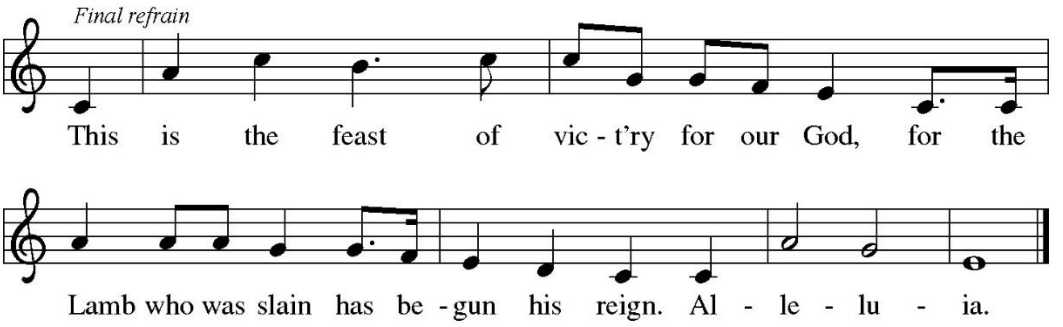
Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*** GATHERING HYMN** **For the Fruit of All Creation** (ELW 679)

***GREETING**

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** **This is the Feast** (ELW p187)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.
Amen.

CHILDRENS SERMON **Libby Letterly**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

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.

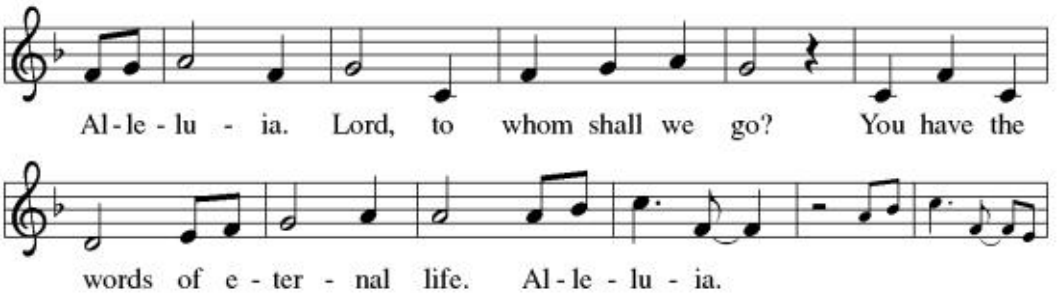
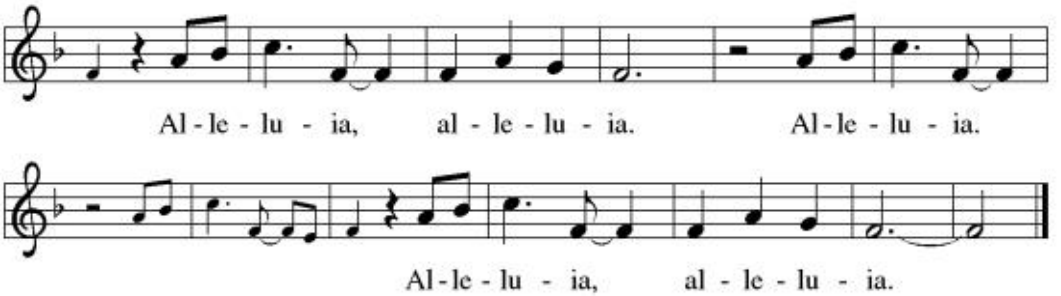
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12

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 children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
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.
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 number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **Alleluia** (ELW p188)

***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

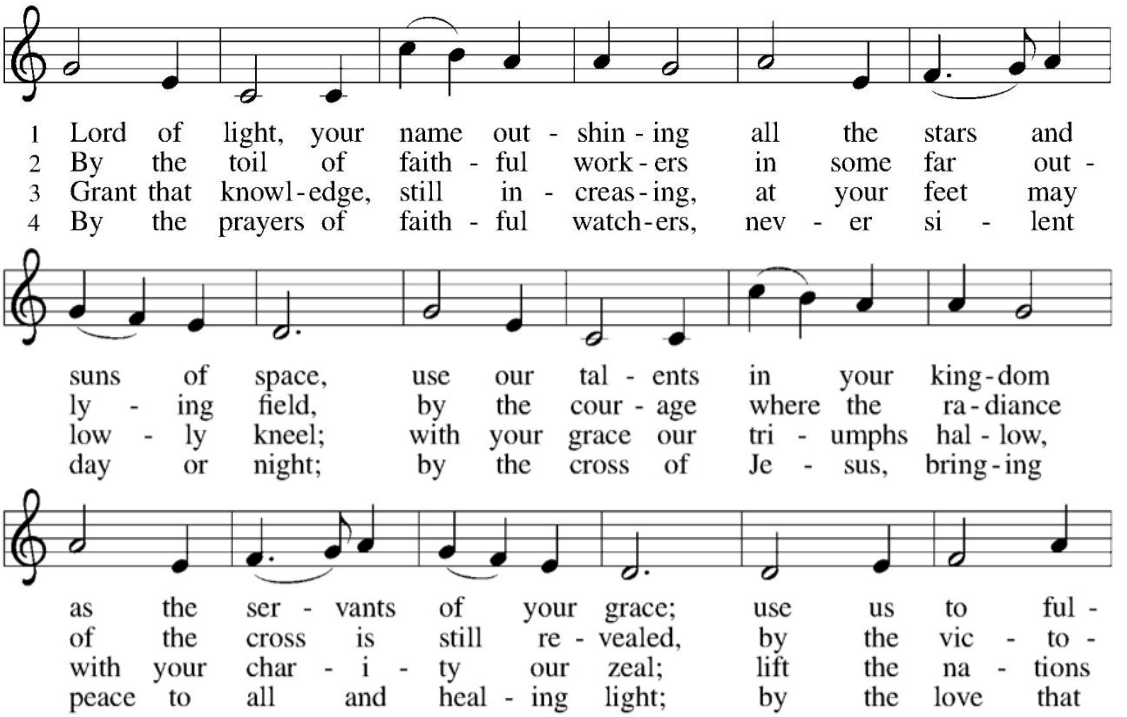
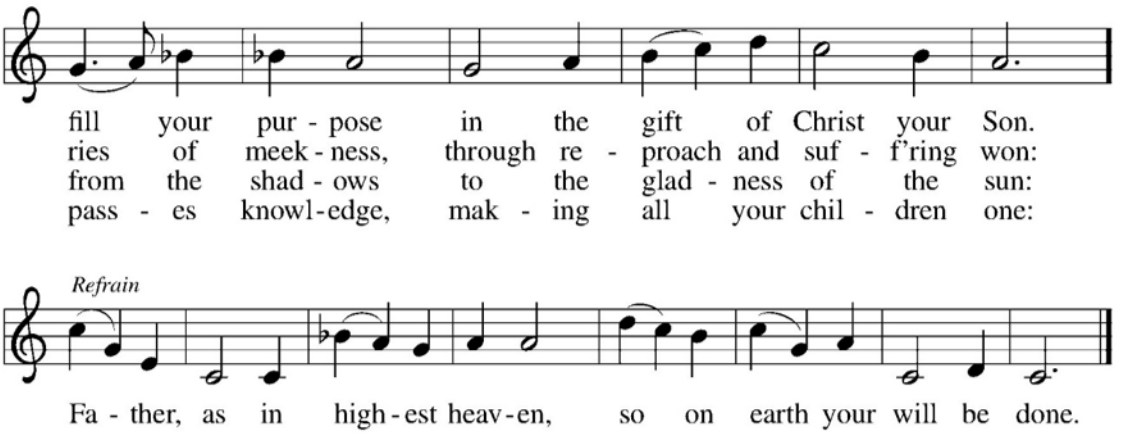
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents 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.
Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON **Cheryl Schnirring, SAM**

A moment of silence for reflection follows the Sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **Lord of Light** (ELW 688)

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine including Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine. 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,
hear our prayer.

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 including Ron Guppy, Pete Ellertsen, Judy Barhoover, Debi Edmund-Ellertsen, Craig Neal, Vern Kleen, Dave Harms, Jay Edgecomb, Mary Loken, Kim Efird, Alda Beemer, Gayle Highley, Michael Horn, and those we now name in this moment of silence.

Silence for praying for others that we know.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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,
hear our prayer.

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

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

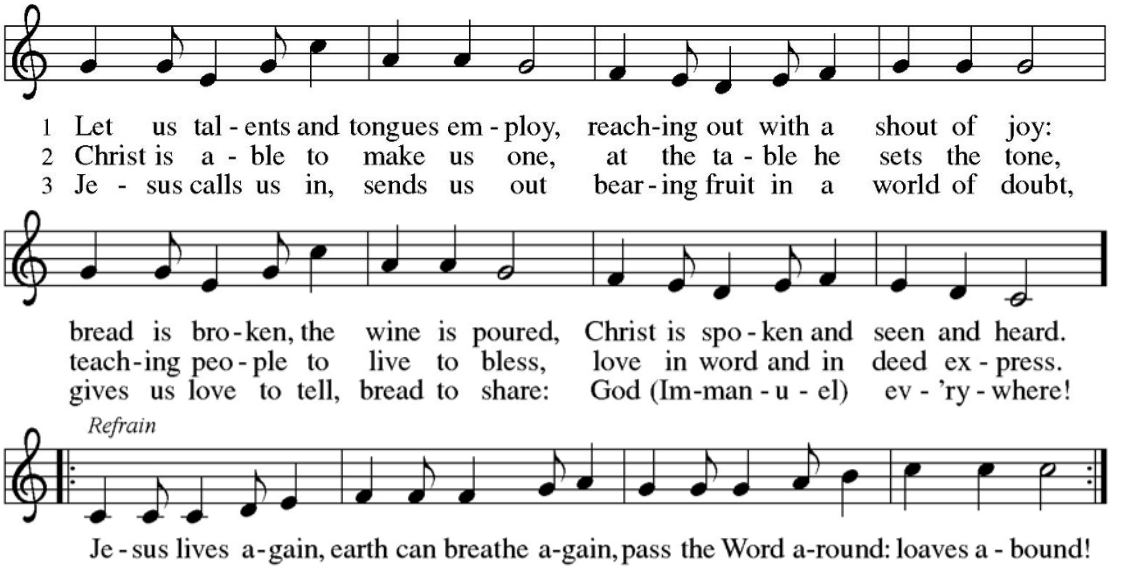
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

A TIME OF OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM **You Are My All in All**

The offering plate in the center aisle will be brought forward as we sing:

***OFFERING HYMN** **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ** (ELW 674)



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

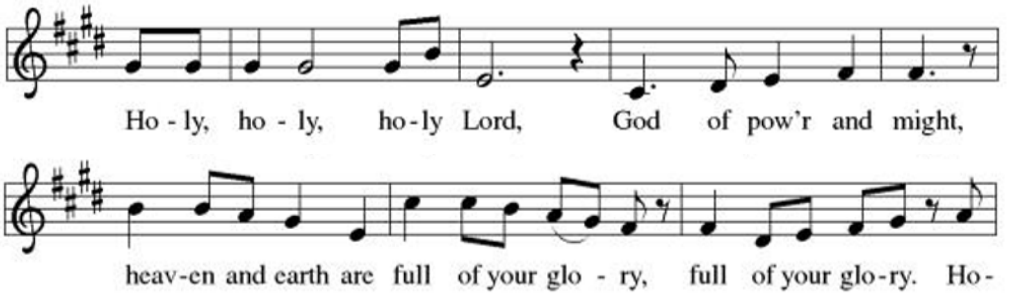
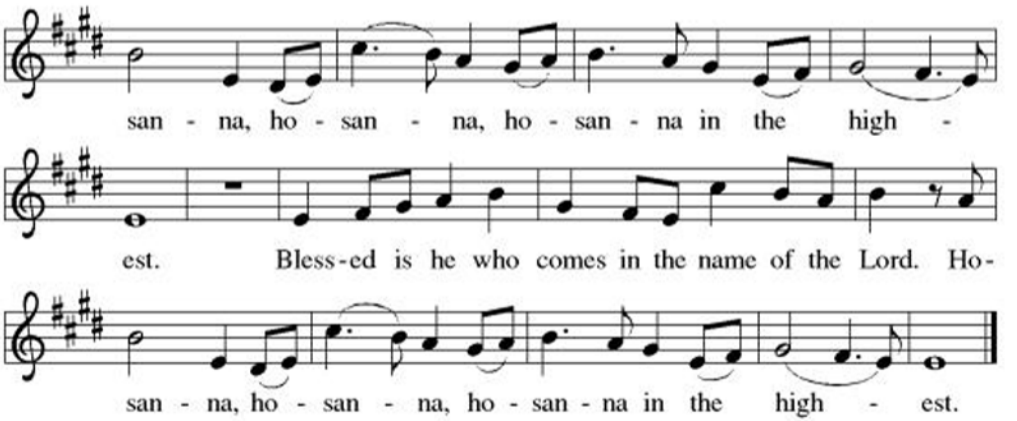
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 p190)



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
surrounded by evil and bordered by death
we appeal to you,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace
and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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 sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection,
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son;
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

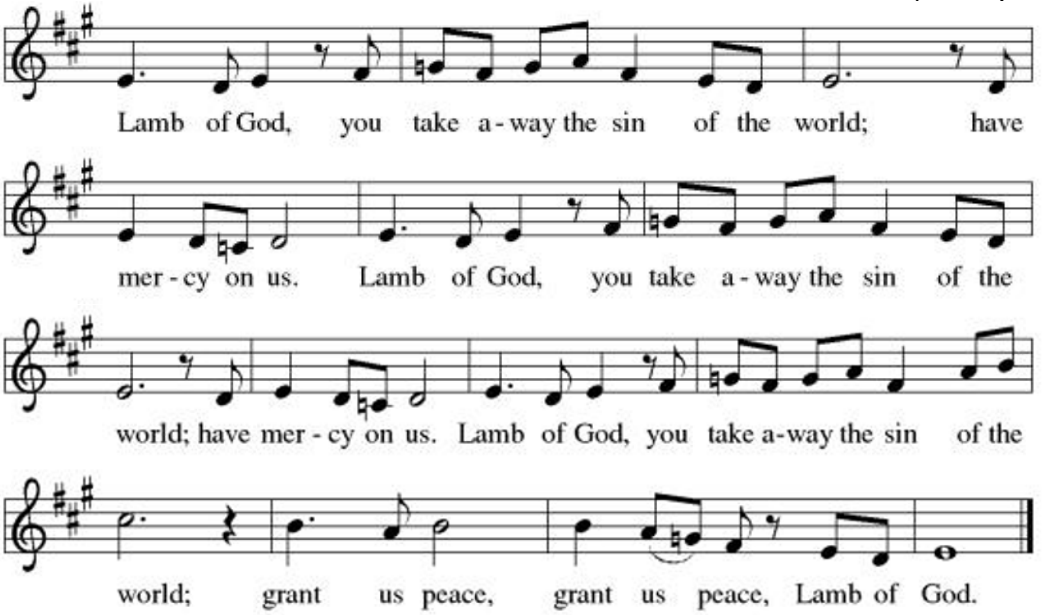
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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**

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
Thanks be to God.

SONG OF APPROACH **Lamb of God** (ELW p191)



COMMUNION SONG **You Never Let Go**

COMMUNION HYMN **Christ, Be Our Light** (ELW 715)

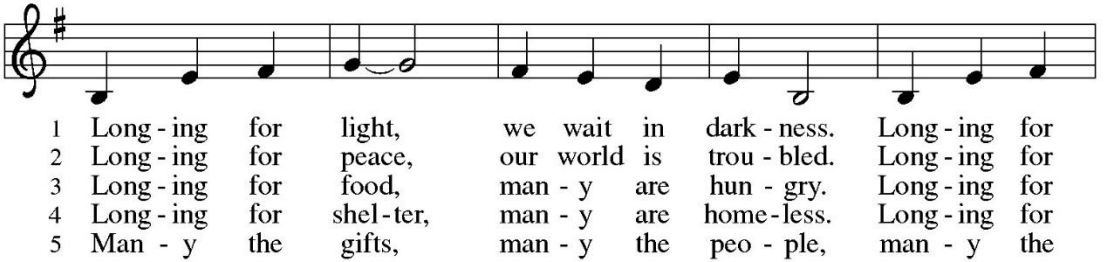
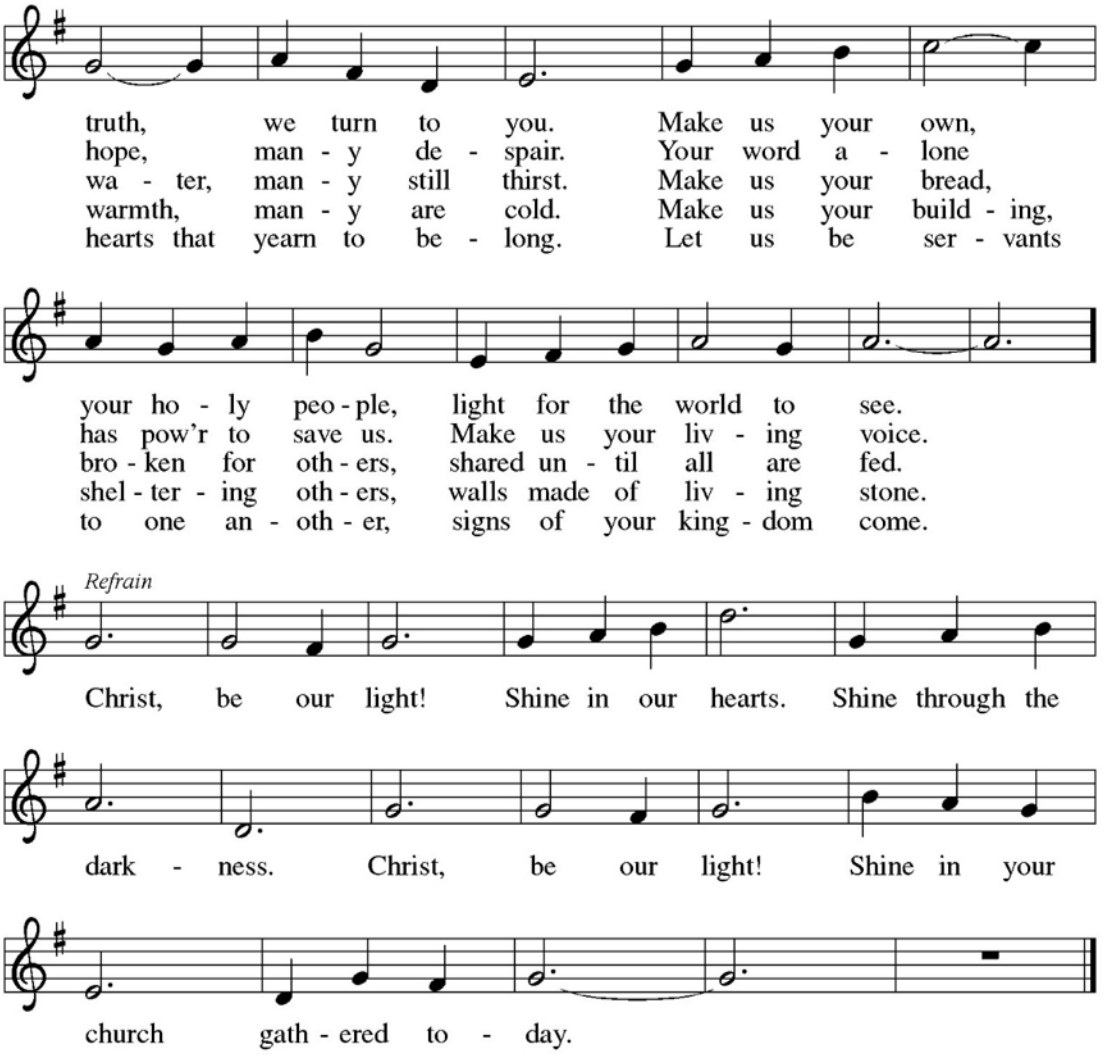



***TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

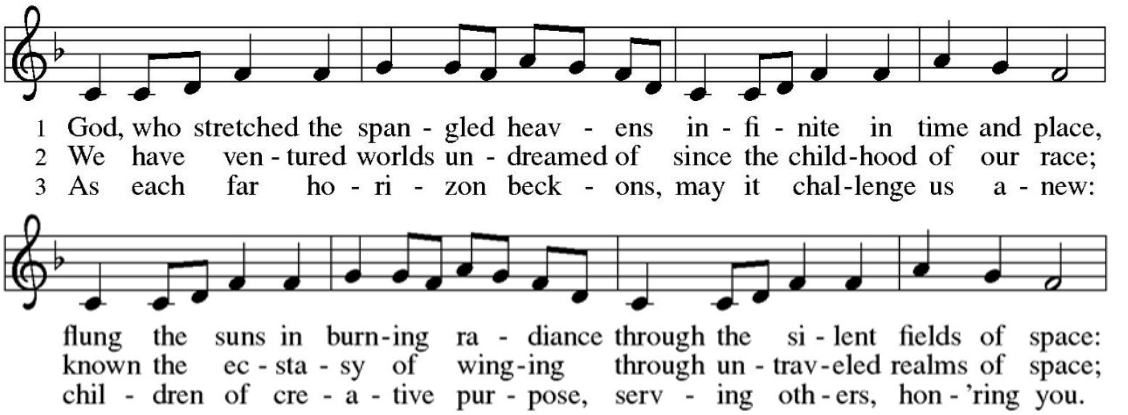
SENDING

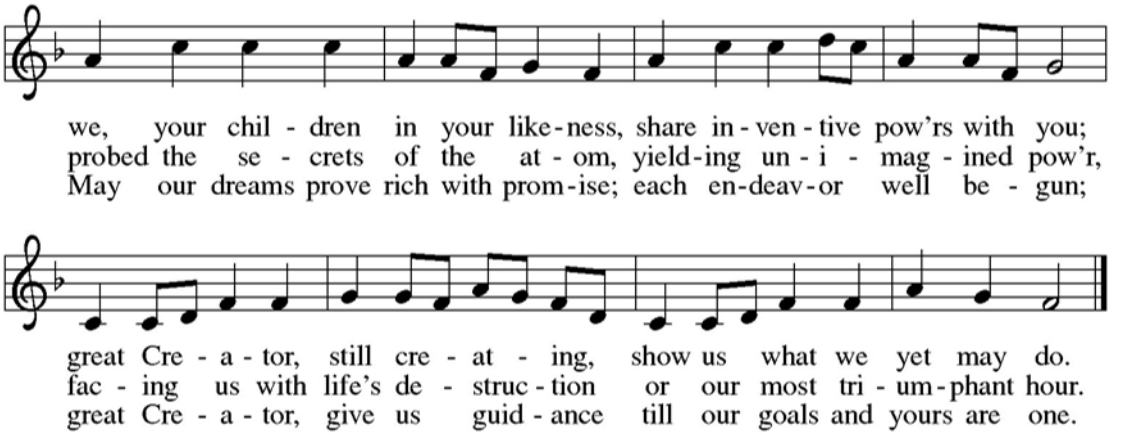
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** **God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens** (ELW 771)





***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE **Pipings!** Brenda Peck

Worship Assistants

Presiding Minister	Cheryl Schnirring
Assisting Minister	Cathy Smith
Reader	Claire Edgecomb
Usher	Libby Letterly
Camera	Janet Kocis
PowerPoint	Linda Rice
Acolyte	Eli Cook
Children's Sermon	Libby Letterly
Altar Guild	Linda Rice

Upcoming Commemorations

From sundaysandseasons.com

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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For the Fruit of All Creation, Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh Traditional. Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company.

Lord of Light, 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

You Are My All in All, Dennis Jernigan © 2009 Hope Publishing Company

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929. Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980. Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

You Never Let Go, Song #4674166 © CCLI 502387 & 20353738

Christ, Be Our Light, Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957. Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell. Text and music © Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications

God, Who Stretched that Spangled Heavens, Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927. Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Text © Hope Publishing Company

Pipings!, James Southbridge, © 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company.

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