

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 26, 2025
6:00 p.m.

We welcome you to worship!
Please fill out the blue worship card and place it in the offering plate later in the service.



Welcome! We are so glad you are with us!
Worship leaders will indicate times to sit and stand.
Please feel comfortable to stay seated, if that is best for you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING LITANY

It is good to give thanks to God.

How great are God's works!

It is good to give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

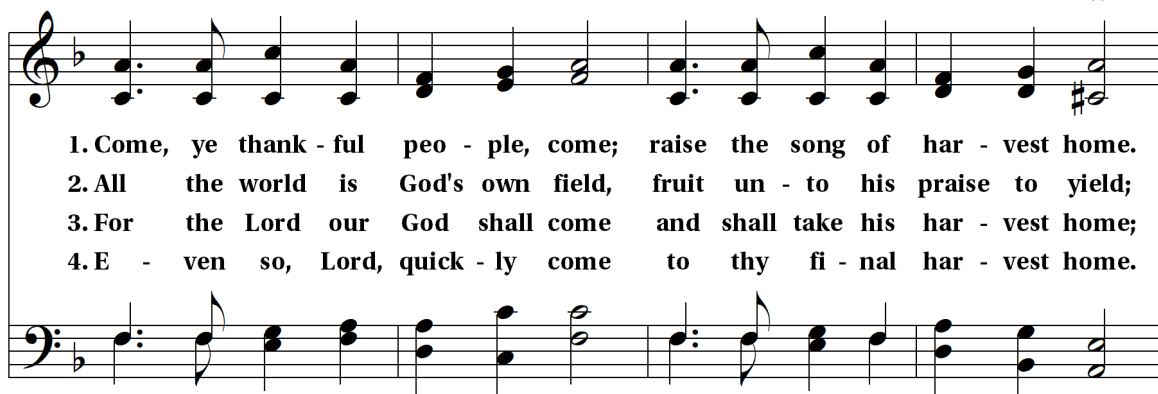
We will worship God with thanksgiving!

GATHERING HYMN *"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"*

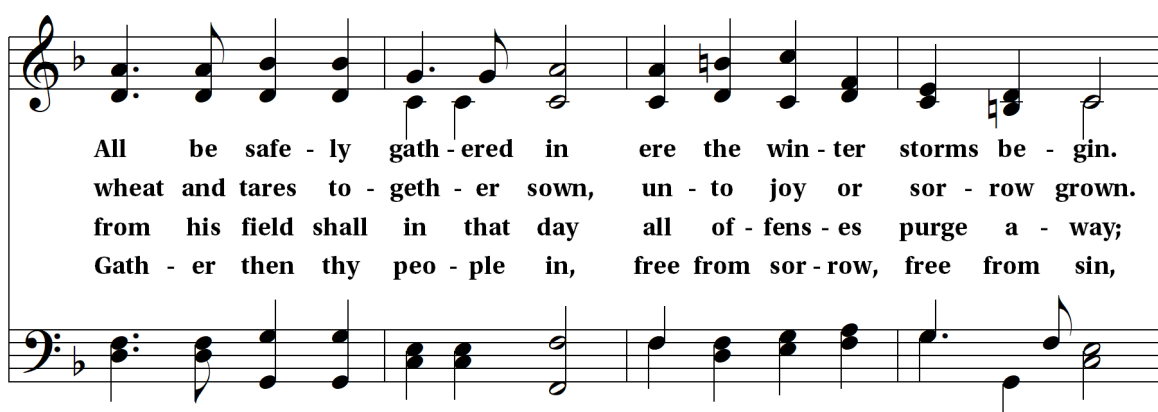
ELW 693

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

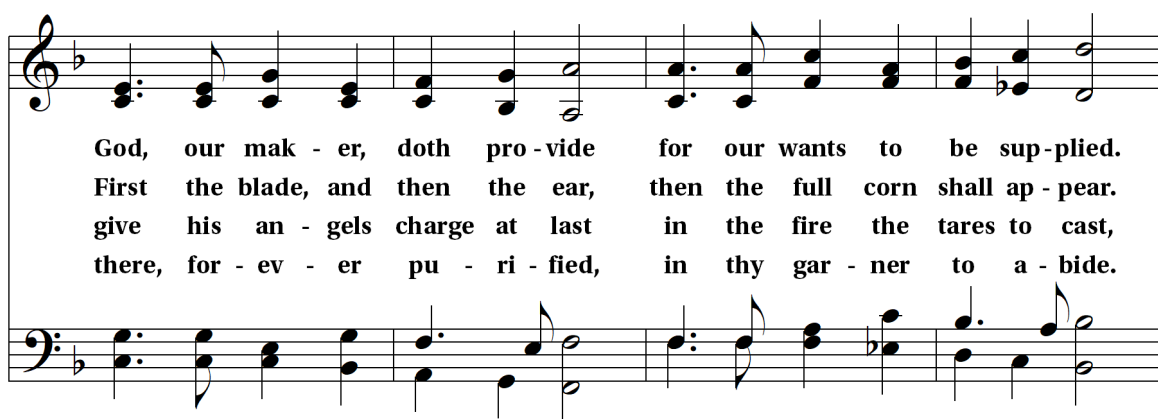
ELW 693



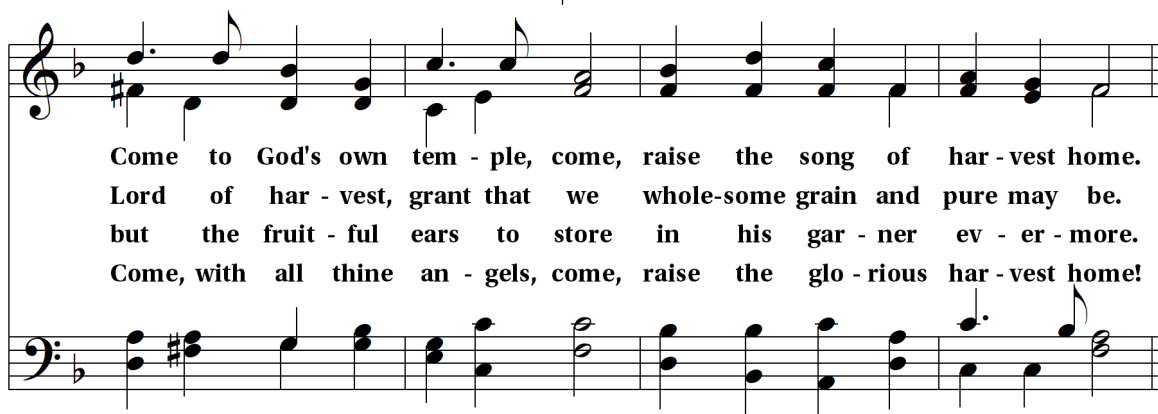
1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

THANKSGIVING RESPONSE

What shall I render to the Lord

for all God's benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and I will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation

and I will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord

now in the presence of the people

In the courts of the Lord's house.

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Guests and members, please give your contact information on the blue card in the pew and place it in the offering plate.

WORD

ANTHEM

"Harvest of Praise" by Nolan/Patterson

Chancel Choir

READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord

brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

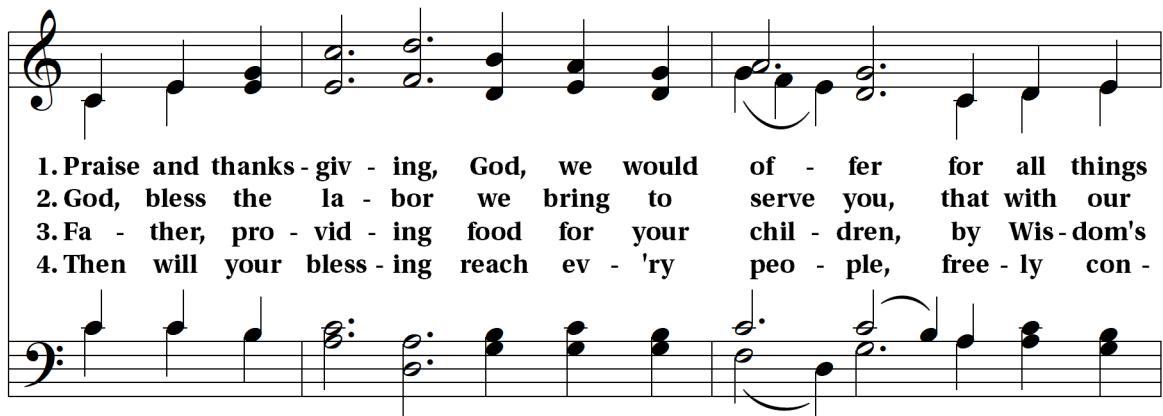
HYMN

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW 689

Praise and Thanksgiving

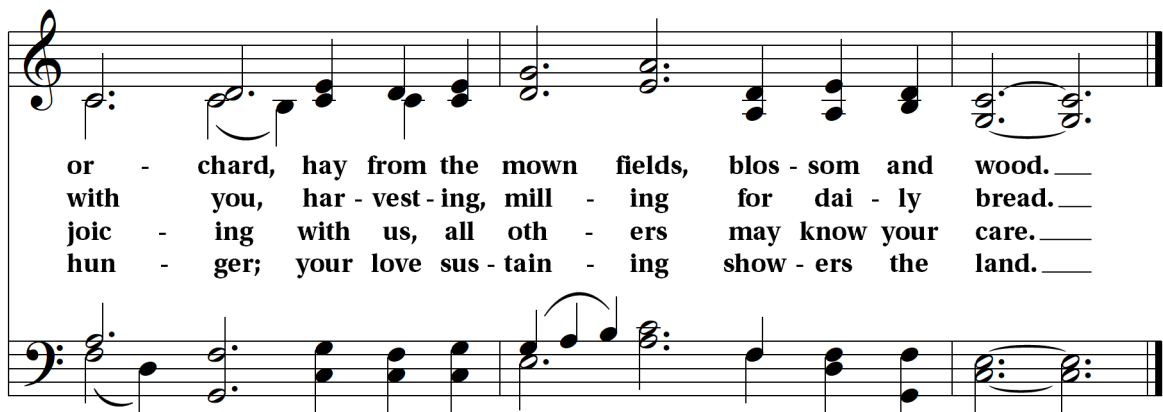
ELW 689



1. Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2. God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3. Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4. Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. — Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood. —
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread. —
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care. —
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land. —

Philippians 4:4-9

Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"For the Fruit of all Creation"

ELW 679

For the Fruit of All Creation

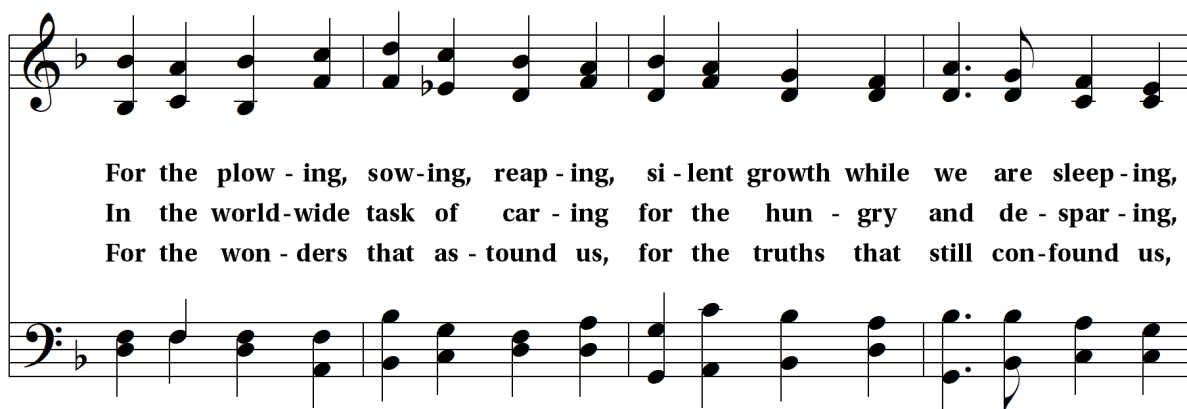
ELW 679



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
In the world-wide task of car-ing for the hun - gry and de-spar-ing,
For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter beginning at the 25th verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 6:25-35

The day after he multiplies bread to feed five thousand people, Jesus is pursued by the crowds clamoring for more bread. Recalling the image of manna in the wilderness, Jesus promises to provide the true bread from heaven that will never fail. Jesus himself is that bread of life.

²⁵ When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Deacon Korra Looschen

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

ELW 694

CONFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs,
my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them,
and in addition, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children,
fields, cattle, and all goods; provides me richly and daily
with all that I need to support this body and life; protects me from all danger, and guards me and
preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without
any merit or worthiness in me. For all this I am to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is
most certainly true.**

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism, First Article of the Creed)

HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879 v. 1, 3, 5

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

1. For the beau - ty of the earth for hte beau - ty of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light:
 4. For the joy of hy - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent child,
 5. For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on eartha nd joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thought sand mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Christ, our God to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

DIX
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THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge, as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death, we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.

For your Word of life, we give you thanks.

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son. Upheld by the voice of your Word, may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy, serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days.

For your Word of power, we give you thanks.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, for calling creation into being, declaring forgiveness from the cross, and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

For your Word of Life, we give you thanks.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path, a mirror reflecting our selves, a shield providing us refuge, a fire burning for justice and truth. Your word is sweeter than honey: it nourishes our bodies like milk, it sustains your people like bread. We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

For your Word of providence and abundance, we give you thanks.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, and to all the cries of the needy. Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ, that heeding your voice of beauty and power we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

For your life-giving Word, we give you thanks.

Abide with us in your Word, O God, that we may speak your blessing to others, today and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

"O Lord of Host, My God and King" by Jarvis/Courtney

Chancel Choir

The FLW Thank Offering boxes will go to support the Women of the ELCA.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

ELW 885

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW 840

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God and we will.

POSTLUDE

"

WELCOME to worship!

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

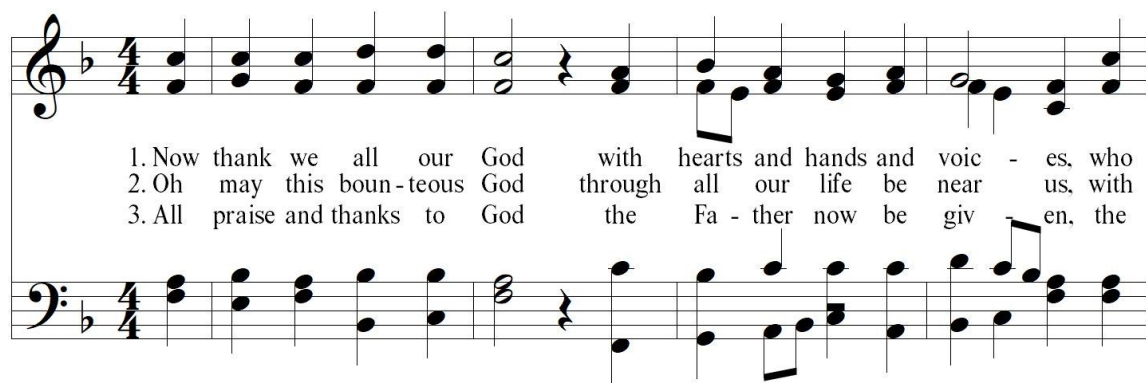
RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We love seeing you in worship!

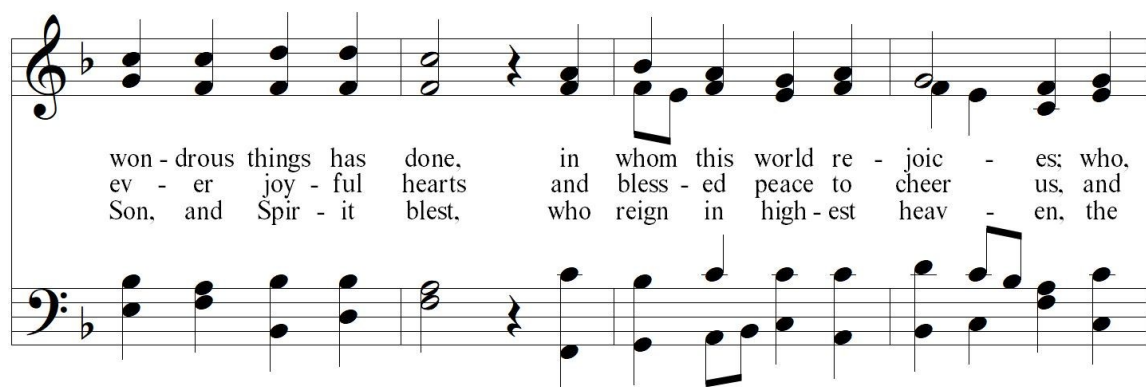
Preacher/Presider	Deacon Korra Looschen
Greeters	Sally Gaddis John Gaddis, Sr.
Ushers	Vicki Hergott Herb Hergott
Reader	Fran von Hagel
Choir Director	Sally Campbell
Organist	Gary Elmquist

Now Thank We All Our God

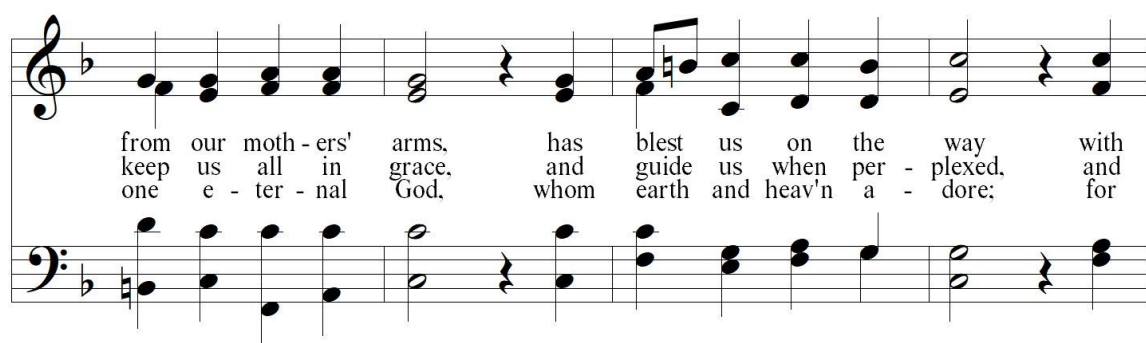
ELW 840



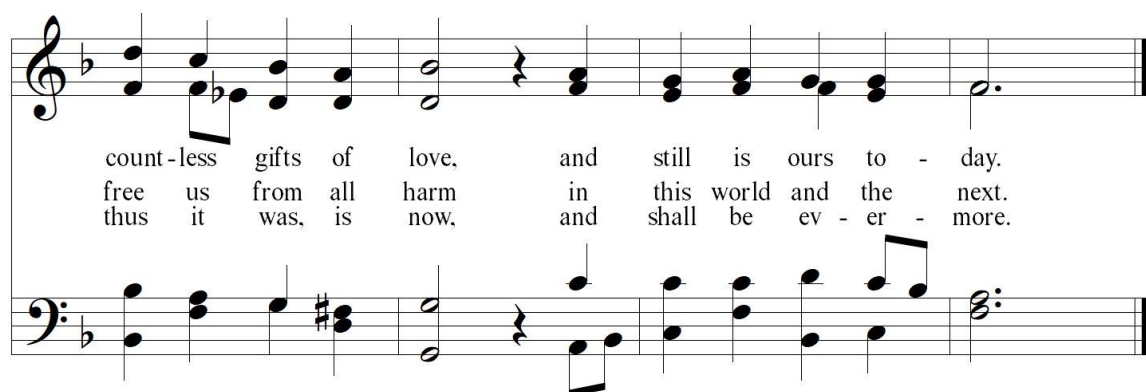
1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who
2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the



won-drous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who,
ev-er joy-ful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and
Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the



from our mothers' arms, has blest us on the way with
keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and for
one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;"



count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
free us from all harm in this world and the next.
thus it was, is now, and shall be ever-more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
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