



Sunday, October 18, 2026

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Northumberland, PA 17857
(570) 473-3770**

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www.stjohnslutherannorry.org**

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God Be The Love to Search and Guide Me ACS 1084

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.

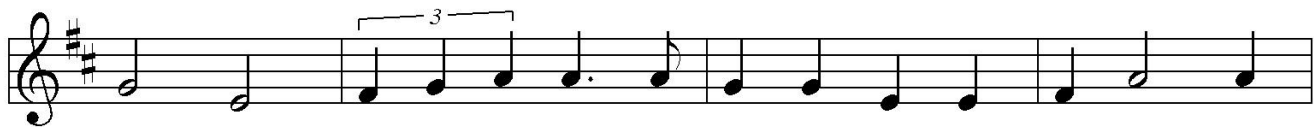
HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



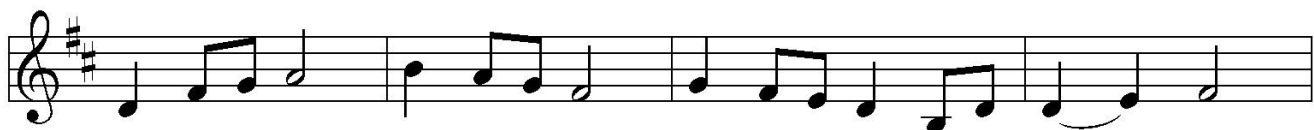
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



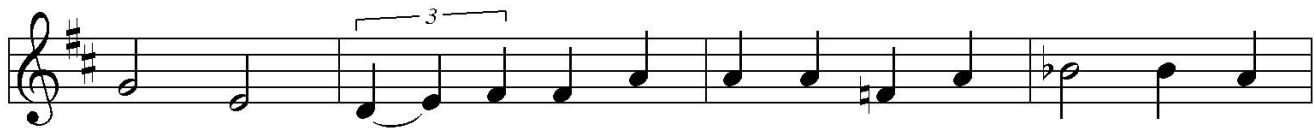
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



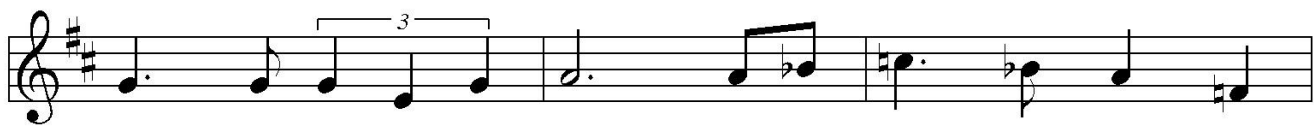
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



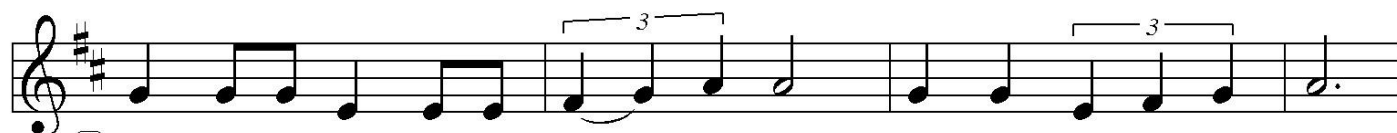
right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
II



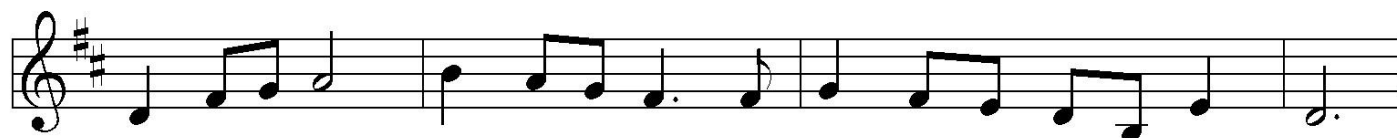
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

REFRAIN *Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.* (Ps. 96:7)

¹ Sing to the Lord | a new song; sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods. R**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

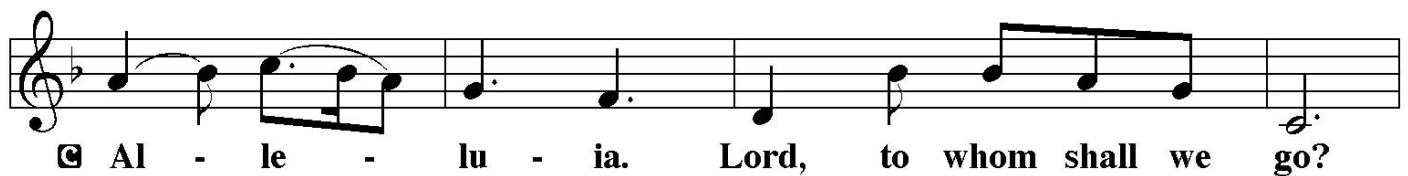
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

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

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Bring Many Names

ACS 1094

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

THE PRAYERS

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

You may share a sign of peace with your neighbor

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in
love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

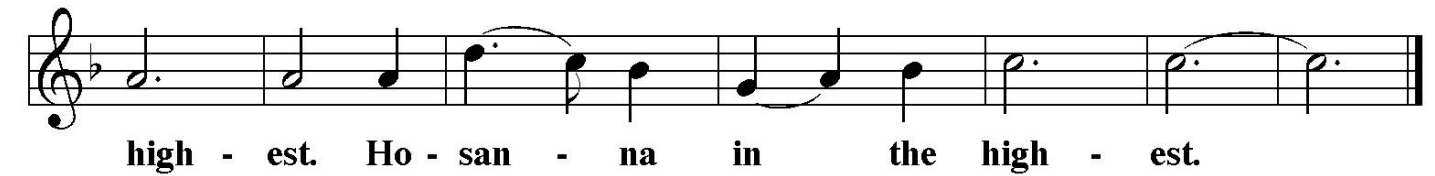
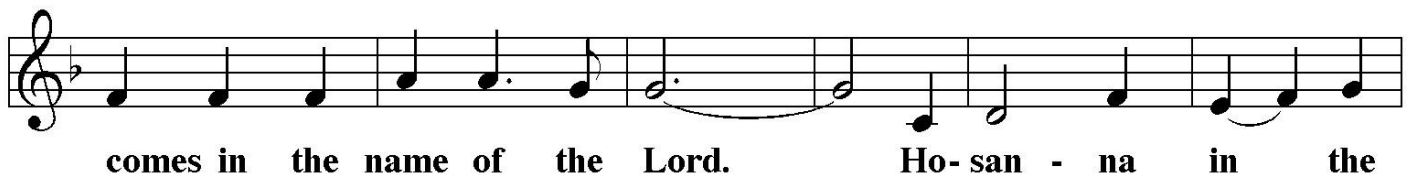
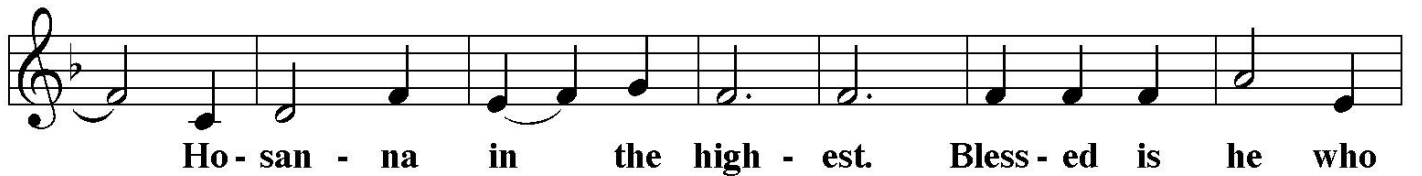
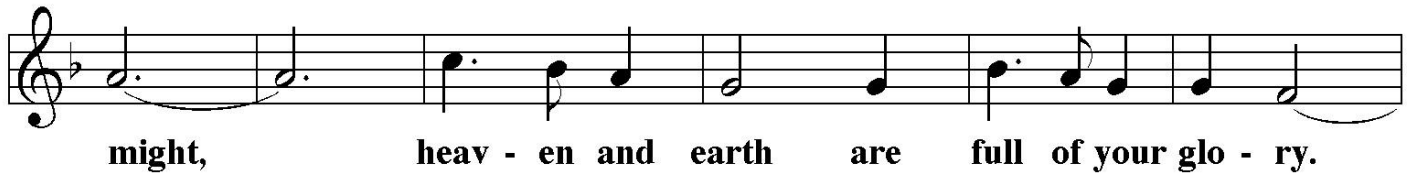
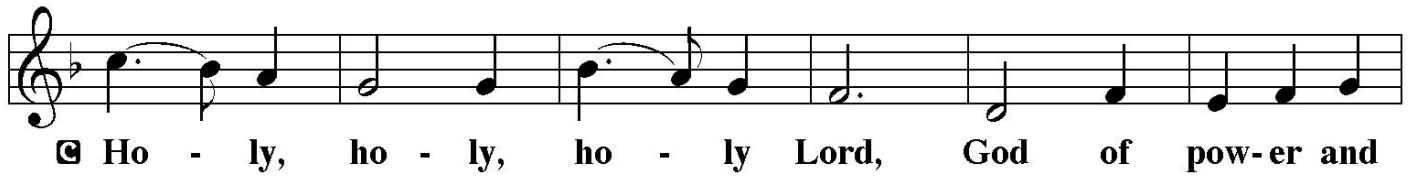
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our

Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION HYMN

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

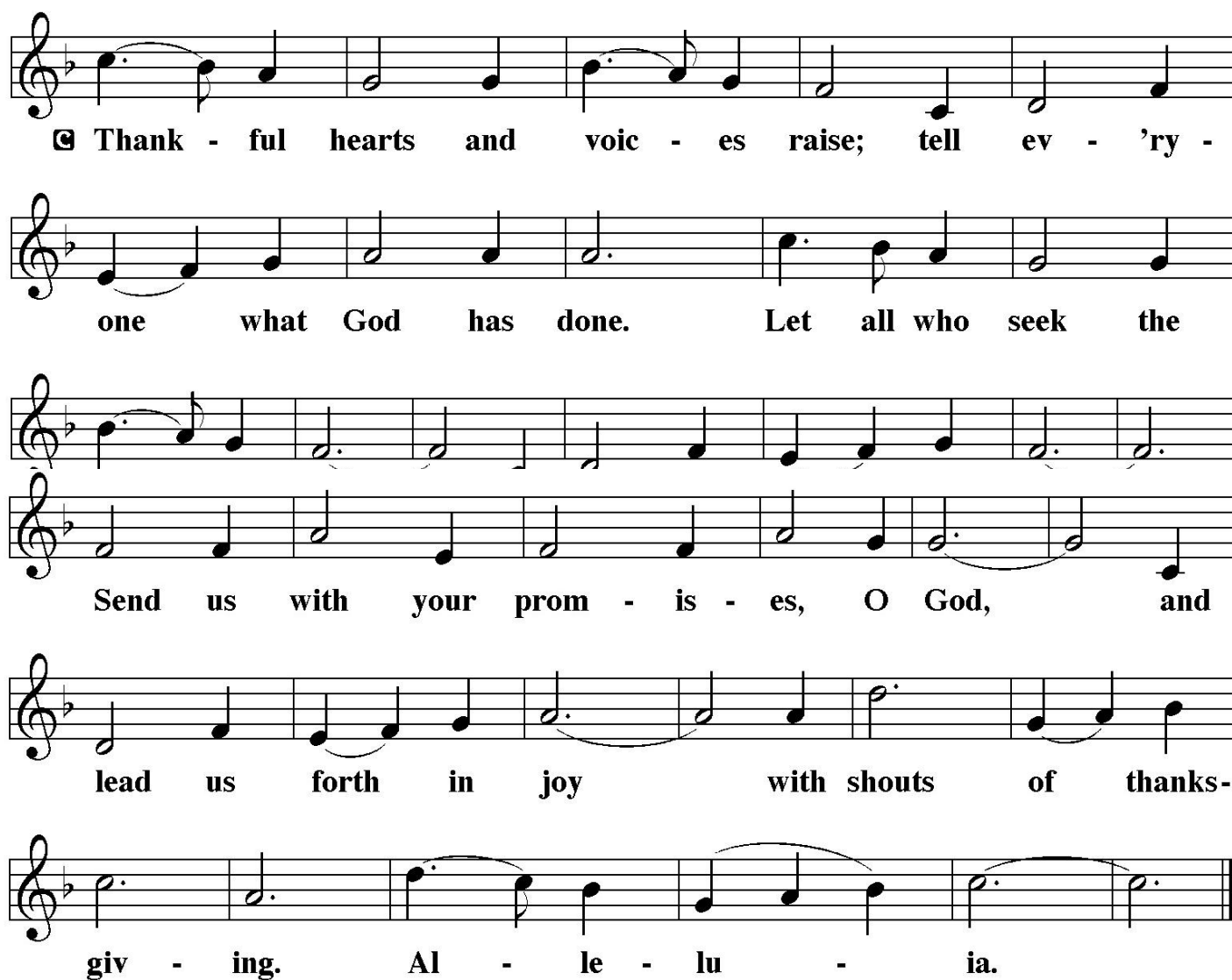
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The assembly may be seated. Communion will be served at the altar rail.
Wine or grape juice is available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

POST CANTICLE HYMN



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ASC 1036

DISMISSAL

We go now to be a light in our community, **to make Christ known to all through nourishing, serving, and faith. Thanks be to God.**

Pastor

Rev. Karla S. Leiby

Director of Music

William Jacavage

Greeter

Steve Mertz

Lector

Mike Erdley

Acolyte

Communion Assistant

Ginny Butler

THE CANDLES are presented by Barb Moyer in honor of Diane Hoffman, whose birthday will be celebrated this week.

The roses are presented in honor of Diane Hoffman's birthday by Gail Lehman and Barb Moyer.

- Social Ministry will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m.** in the library. All are invited and welcome to join.
- Rummage and Soup Sale will be held on **Saturday, October 24, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.** It is being sponsored by Cub Pack 3325.
- Poinsettia order forms for Christmas Eve are located on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. ***Money and orders are due by November 15th.*** Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.
- WELCA will be having a theme basket raffle at the Christmas Bazaar and we could use your help. There is a tree in the rear of the sanctuary with Christmas ball tags of items needed to assemble baskets. Similar to how we do the Mitten Tree and Birthright Trees, take a tag or two, or more. Purchase the item on the tag and return it to the church **by November 8th.**
- Items for Harvest Home is being collected through November 18th. Canned food, non-perishable items, personal and cleaning items may be dropped off in the rear of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings or the church office. Items will be divided among the Mitten Tree Families.
- The Scout Troop is selling Marianna Subs, Pizza and Salsa. Order form is on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Take a night off from cooking and enjoy a delicious sub or pizza, or stock up on salsa for game days !
- This month's Special Pink Envelope is designated for the local Fire Department. The Quiet Cash/Noisy Coin is being collected for ELCA World Hunger.

PRAYERS: Gwyn Montgomery; Jane Ramer; Eleanor Charles; Rick Smeltz; Betty Yerg; Bob Haile; Jim Herbert; Helen Peters; Connie Freitsch; Marty Rafter

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: PRAYERS: Chris Eisely; Kaye Wolfe; Barb Eisley; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Nevin Brungard; Nancy Hendricks; Bill Wagner; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

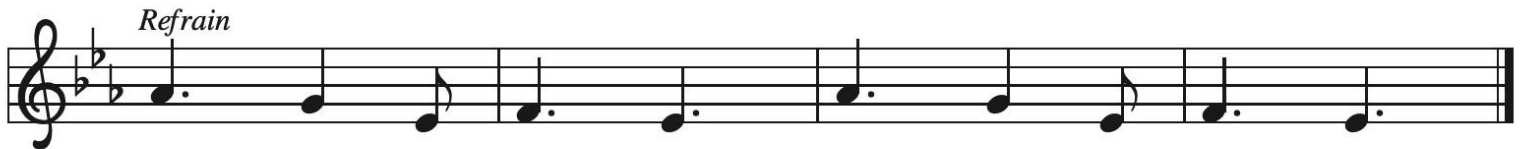
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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Bring Many Names



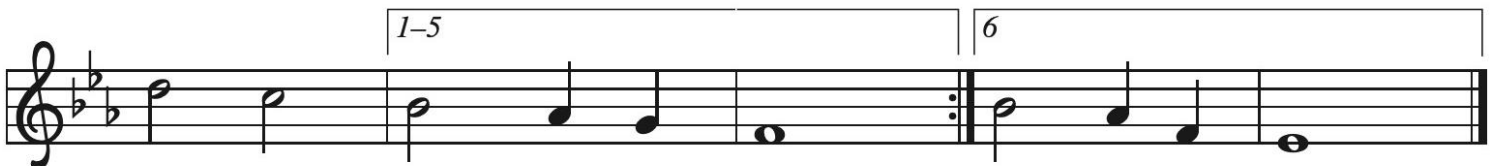
1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,
 4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -
 qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -
 giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -
 pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -
 jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -
 breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



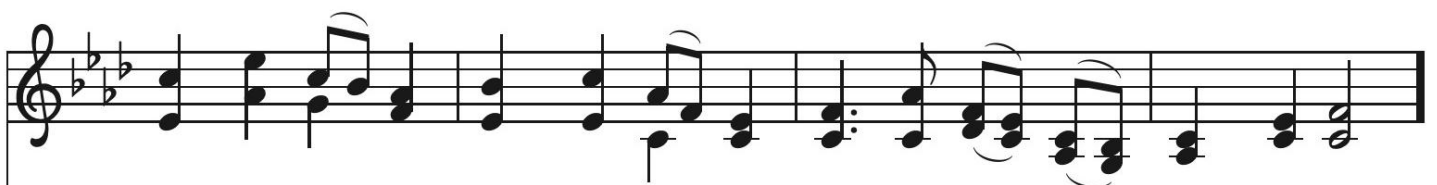
san - na! Bring man - y names!
 san - na, strong moth - er God!
 san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 san - na, old, ach - ing God!
 san - na, young, grow - ing God!
 san - na,

6 great, liv - ing God!

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



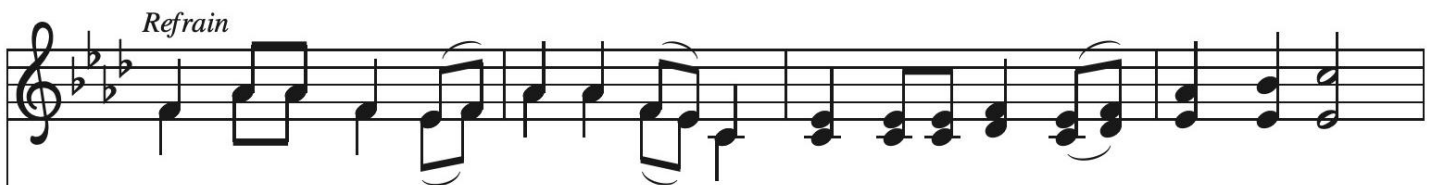
1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



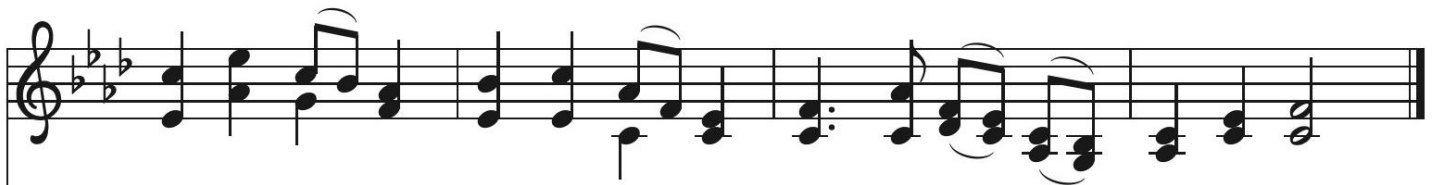
Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and stran-gers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, brid-ging lives and breach-ing walls.



Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

