Apostles Lutheran Church



THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN
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ALL SAINTS DAY

Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12)

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | 10:00 am

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children** and **2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Prelude and Silent Prayer

Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to ***silence all cell phones.***

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

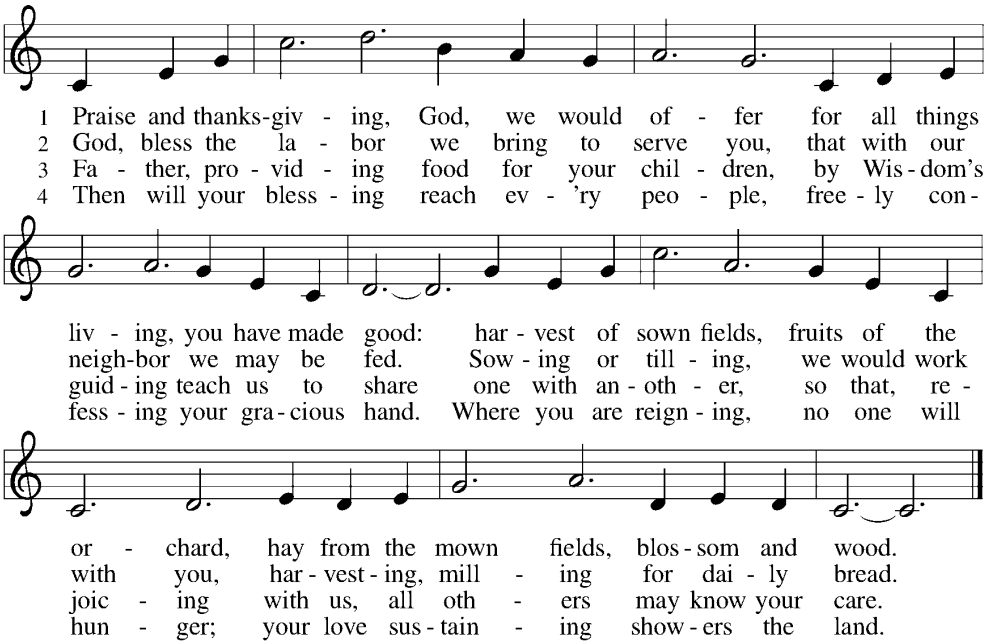
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn — ELW #689

"Praise and Thanksgiving"
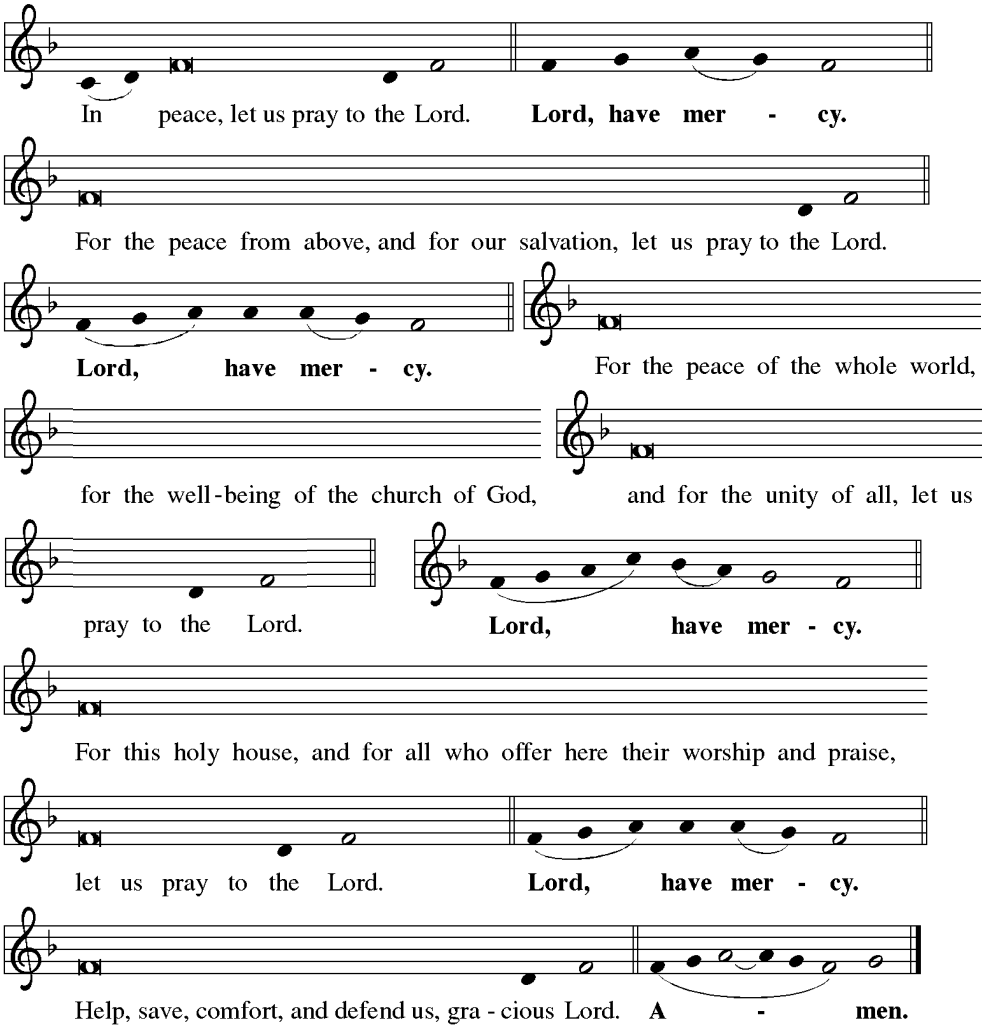


Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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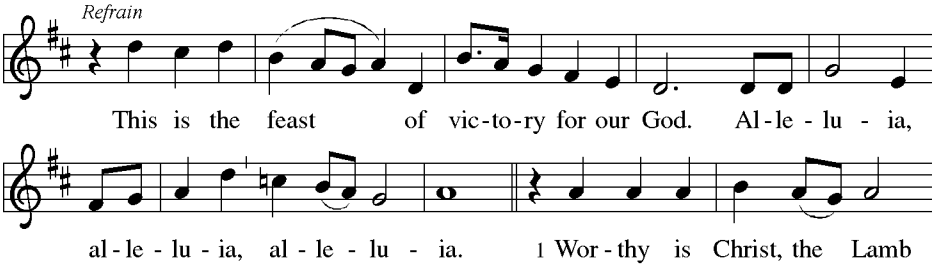
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
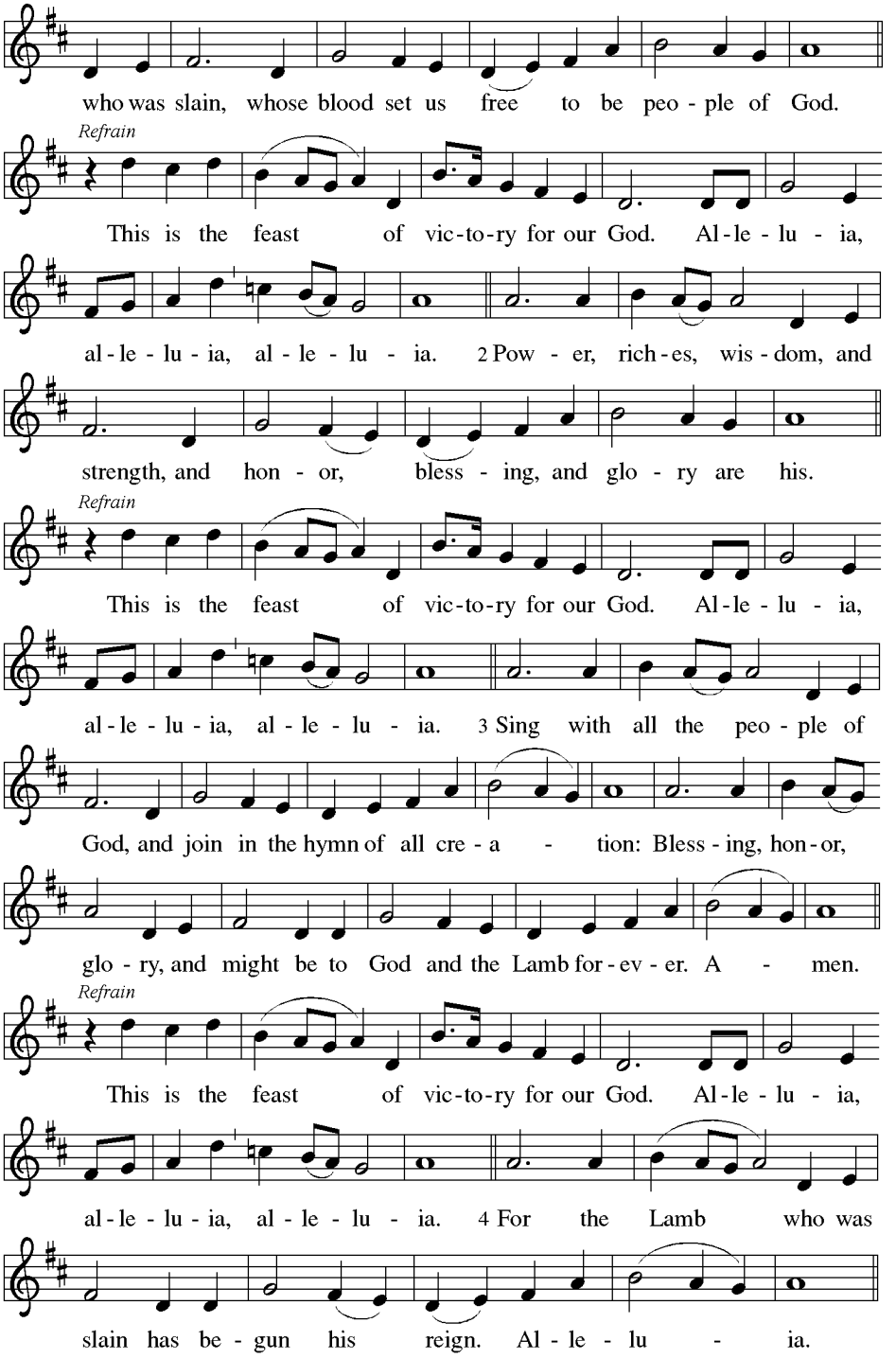
And also with you.

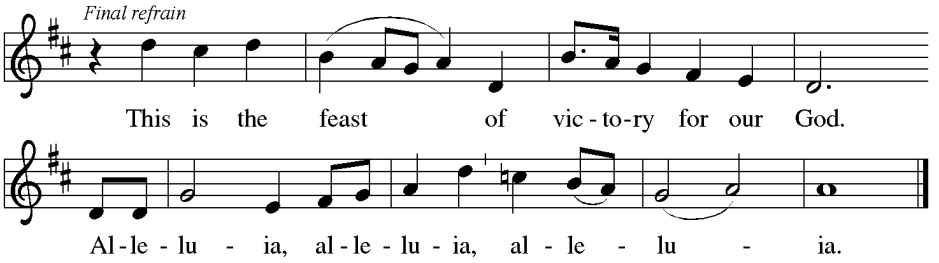
Kyrie



Canticle of Praise




who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

Sit

First Reading — Deuteronomy 26:16-19

16 "This very day the LORD your God is commanding you to observe these statutes and
ordinances, so observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your soul. 17 Today you
have obtained the LORD's agreement: to be your God; and for you to walk in his ways, to
keep his statutes, his commandments, and his ordinances, and to obey him. 18 Today the
LORD has obtained your agreement: to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to
keep all his commandments; 19 for him to set you high above all nations that he has made, in
praise and in fame and in honor; and for you to be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he
promised."

Response after the First Reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm — Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 I will bless the Lord | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
2 **I will glory | in the Lord;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. R

3 Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt God's | name together.
4 **I sought the Lord, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
5 Look upon the Lord | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
6 **I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me**
and saved me from | all my troubles. R

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord
and de- | livers them.
8 **Taste and see that the | Lord is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
9 Fear the Lord, you saints | of the Lord,
for those who fear the | Lord lack nothing.
10 **The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing | that is good.
22 O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. **R**

Second Reading — Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living

creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[15] For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
[16] They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
[17] for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

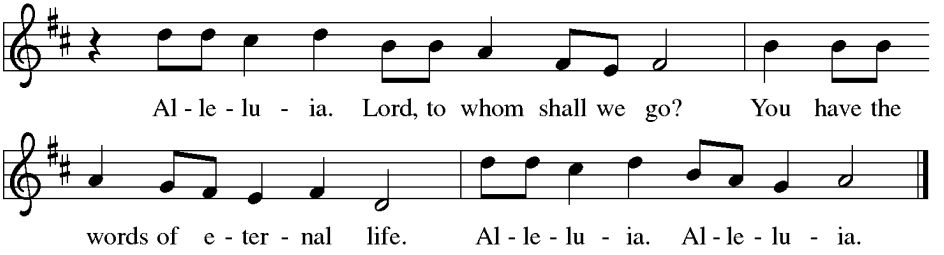
Response after the Second Reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Gospel Acclamation



The gospel is announced. All are invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 5th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — Pete Liljeberg
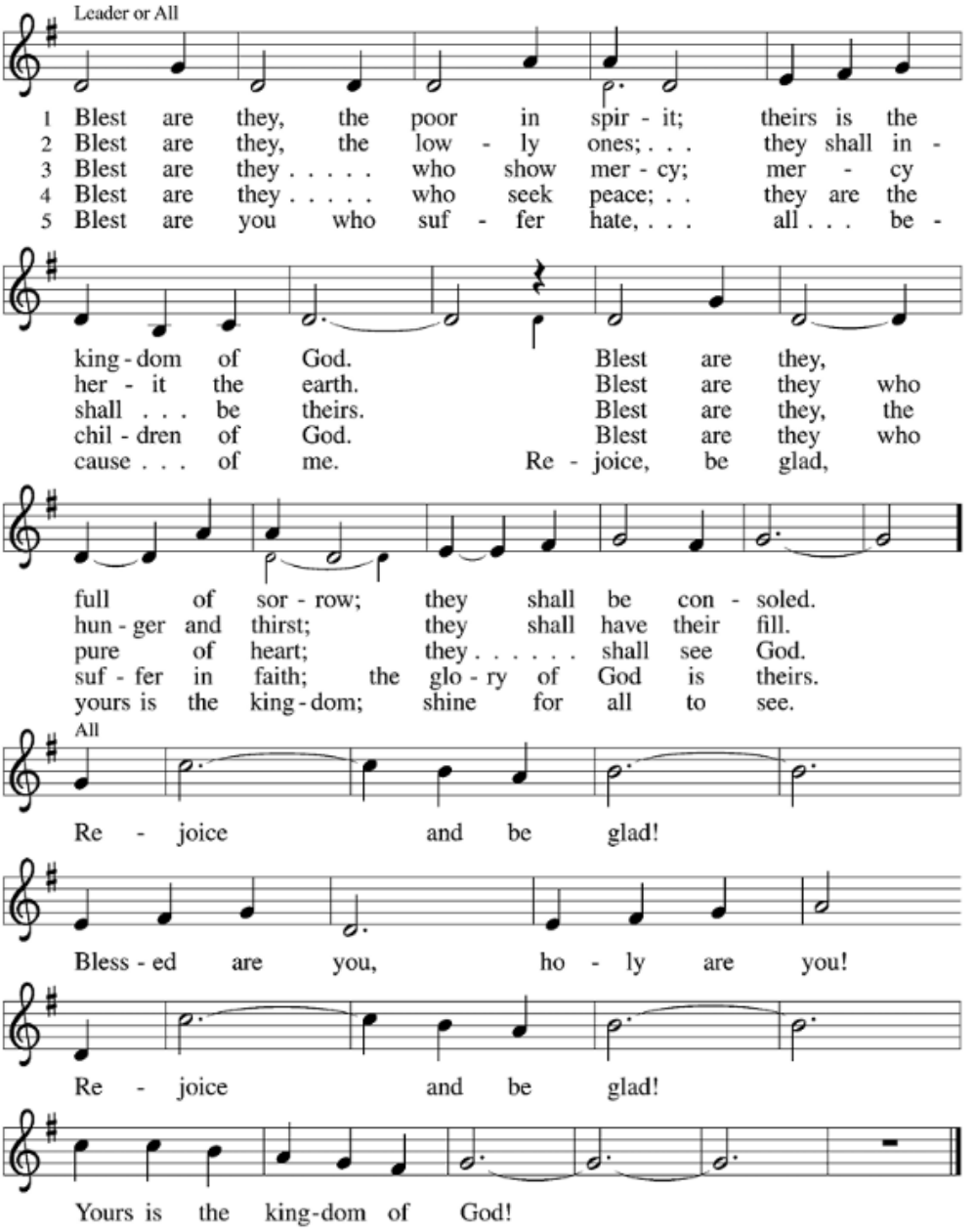
Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Hymn of the Day

ELW #728

"Blest Are They"



Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: David Haas
Text and music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

BLEST ARE THEY
Irregular

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All Saints Sunday Commemoration

Today, on All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in the faith and have entered the Church Triumphant. During the Prayers of Intercession, as we pray for God's saints, we will pause to name individual saints who are dear to us.

The congregation is invited name friends/family who have entered the Church Triumphant out loud. As each saint is named out loud, a chime will be sounded in that saint's memory. When this naming ceremony concludes, we will give thanks to God for all the Saints who from their labor rest.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:
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.

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING — ADULT CHOIR

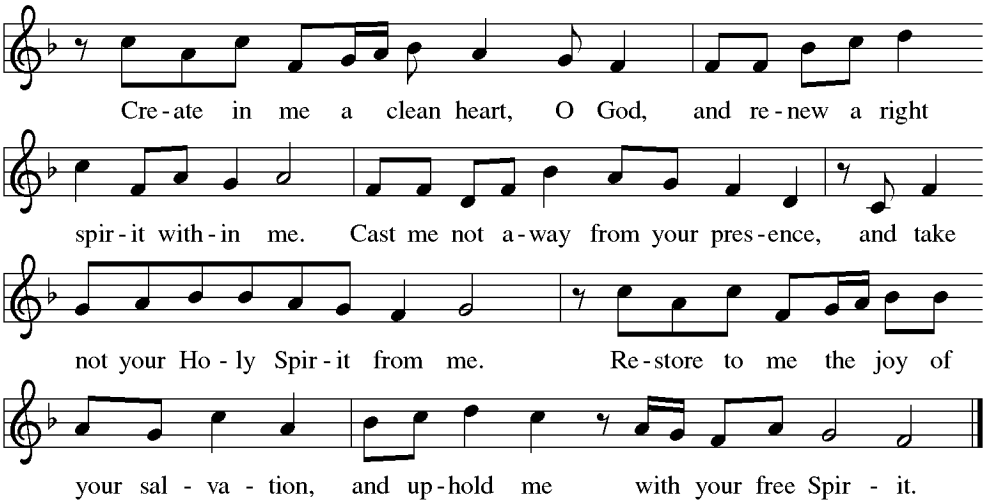
"Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
To give online:

- **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**
- **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN — ELW #186



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

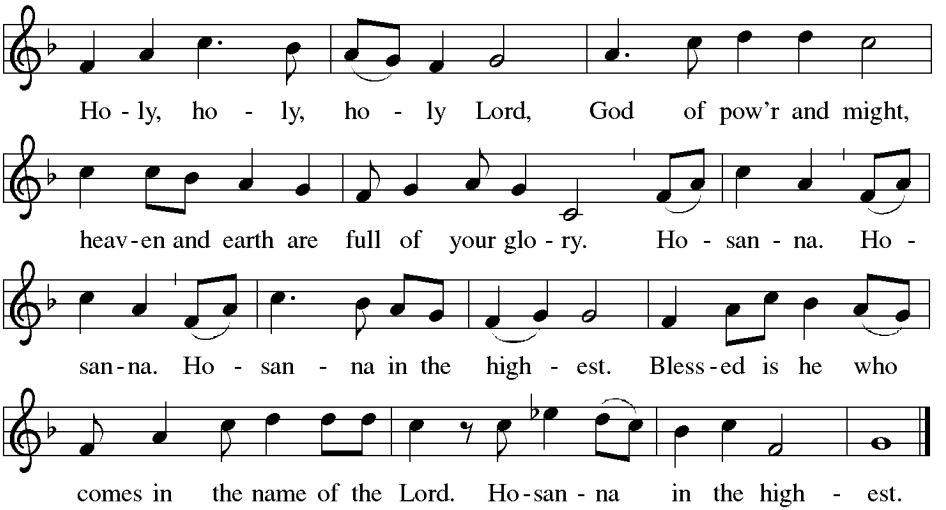
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The great thanksgiving continues.

… we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The great thanksgiving continues.

The 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

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

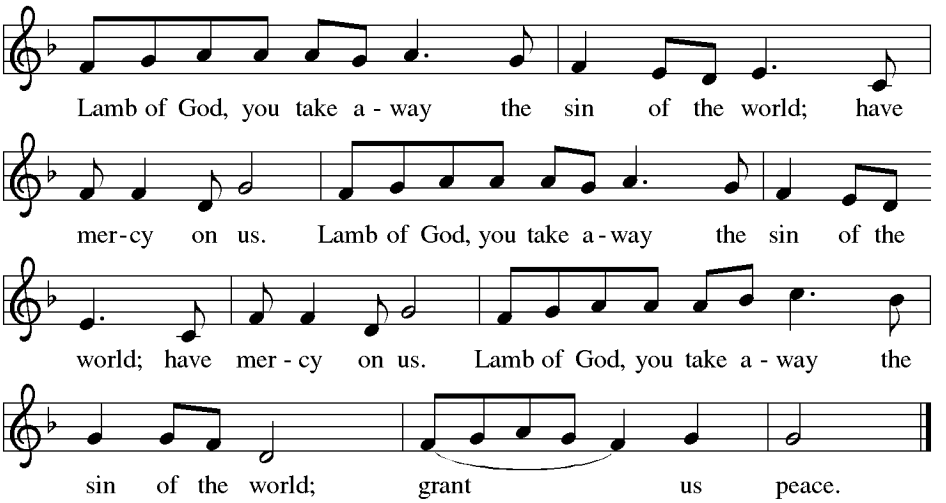
Sit

Communion

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.
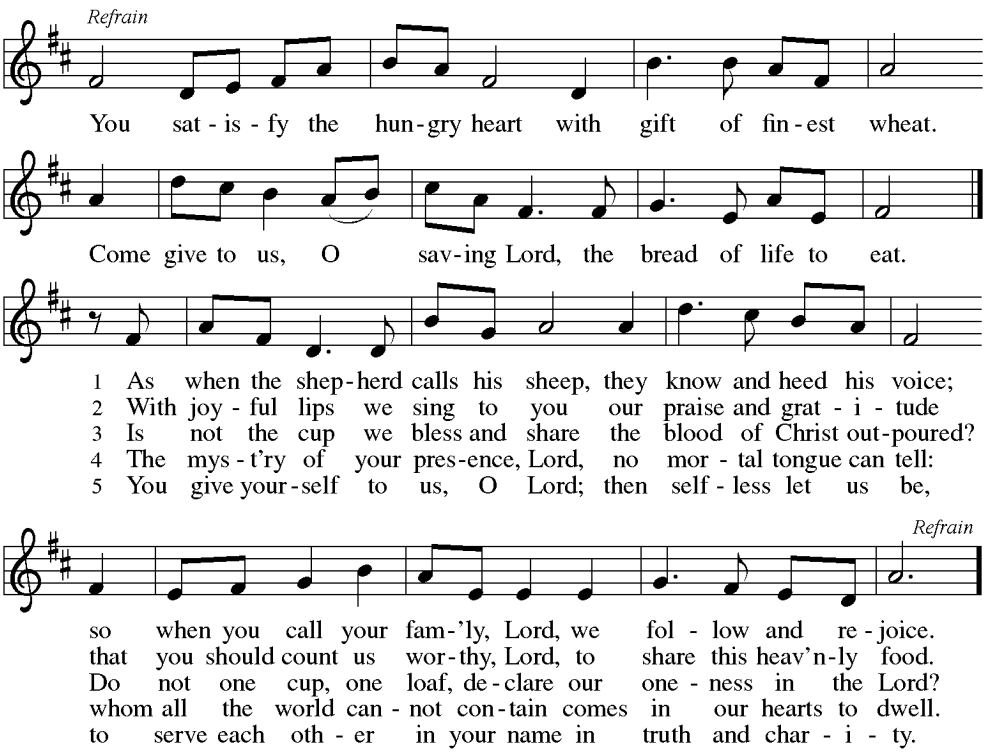
You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.

Lamb of God



Hymn During Communion ELW #484

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart | *Gift of Finest Wheat*"



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. 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 back into the world.
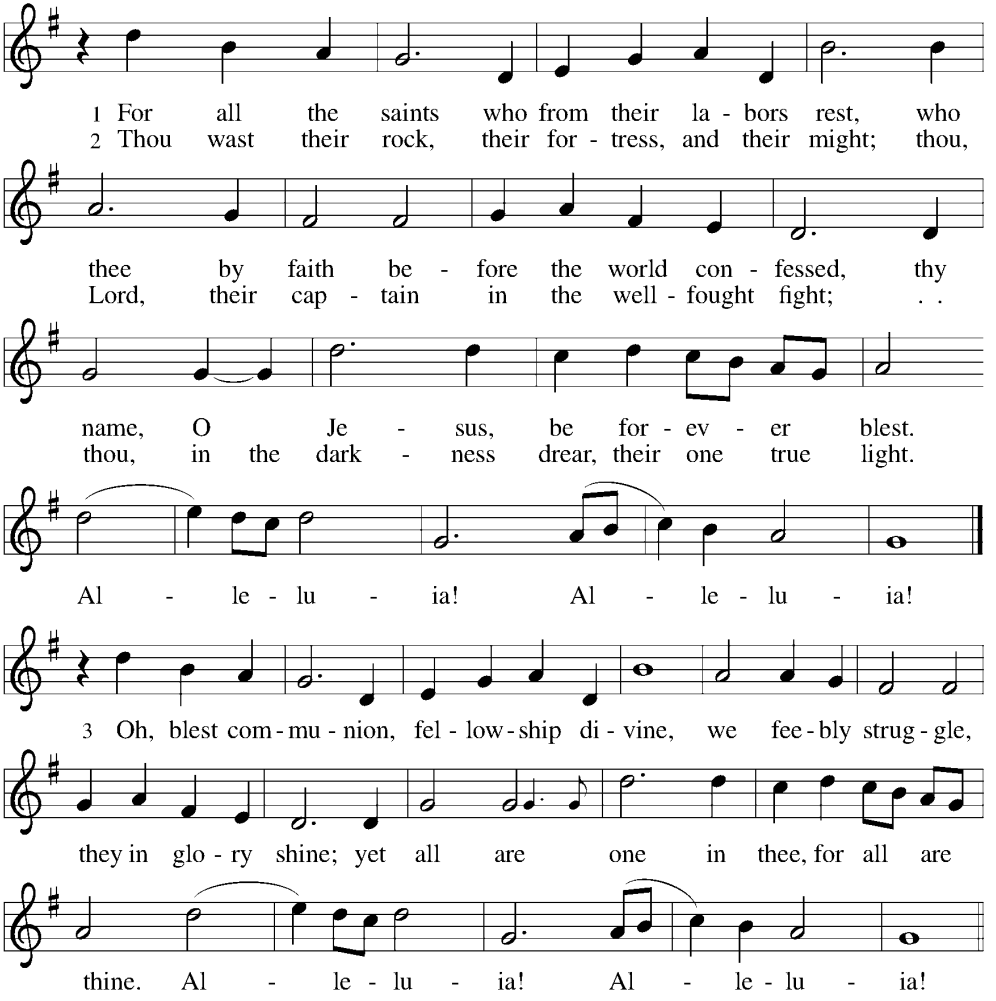
Blessing

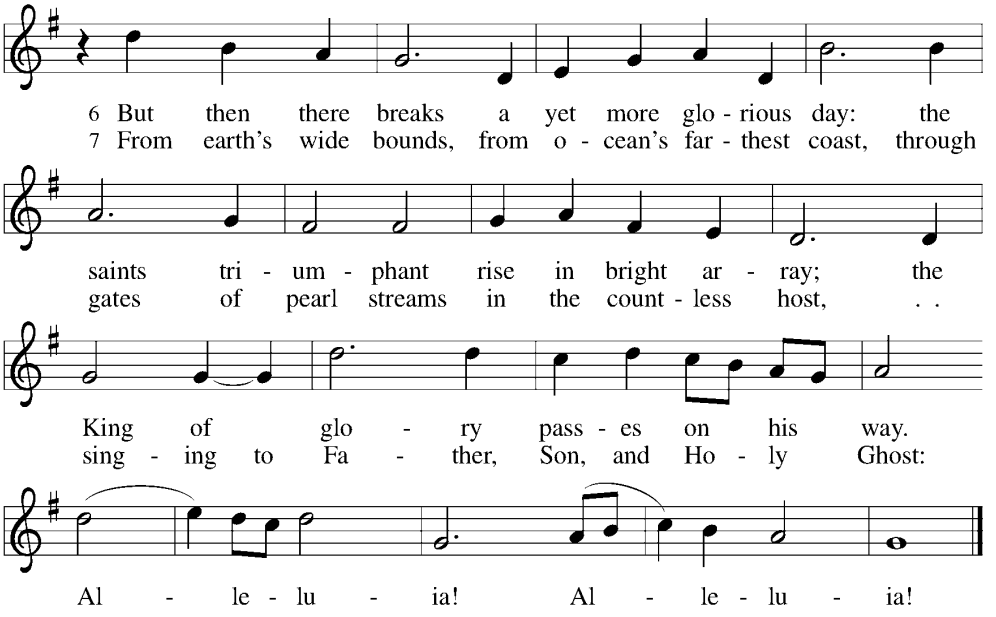
The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn — ELW #422

"For All the Saints" (Verses 1-2, 3, 6-7)





Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Music from *The English Hymnal* outsied the USA© Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Worship Leaders

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader	Pete Liljeberg	Ingrid Peterson
Preacher	Pete Liljeberg	Ingrid Peterson
Lay Assisting Minister	Irene Albert	Sue Turner
Lector	Irene Albert	Karen Johnston
Acolyte	David Muse	Chase Ambrose
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Choir Director	Daniel Gomez	-
Altar Care	Betsy Liljeberg	Betsy Liljeberg
Communion Bread	Betsy Liljeberg	Donna Ambrose
Flowers	Janet Gomez	Irene Albert
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Karen Johnston
Technology	Jason Lowe	Chris Hawkins

Servants for the Week

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Bonnie Hanson	Alberts
Tellers	Barbara Runk/Daniel Gomez	Chris Hawkins/Nate Peterson
Fellowship Set Up	Caring Community	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food	Alberts	Judy Wright/Ellen Quirk
Fellowship Clean Up	Alberts	Donna Ambrose

Readings For Next Sunday
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24
Let justice roll down like waters

Psalm 70
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
The promise of the resurrection

Matthew 25:1-13
The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

Saintly Sinners, Sinful Saints

All Saints Sunday and the appointed readings are pregnant with themes of stark contrast: death and life, condemnation and redemption, sorrow and joy, suffering and relief, present life and future life. Such is life, too, as baptized children of God. The very nature of our lives is stark contrast.

By virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made saints while we are still sinners. Every day in this juxtaposed life we navigate through rough waters such as sin, evil, pain, heartache, addiction, abuse, hunger, disease, and war. But our bearing is always set, not by the North Star but by the Daystar, who has been the heading for the faithful of every generation. With the scriptures as our compass and the confessions our map, we sail as a part of the great flotilla of saints on the waters of baptism, with the wind of the Spirit at our backs, always pointed in the direction of our guiding Daystar.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the stormy waters of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to do in our own seas. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.

Prayer Chat – Thursday, 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Please join us on Thursday with a "prayer chat" with Pastor Jay on Zoom – invitation to join will be sent out by email.

"Faith 5" Sunday School

Children of all ages are invited to attend the upcoming Sunday School this Friday, November 6th, at 6:00 PM. Dinner is part of the program. This gives parents 2 hours of free time in addition to the opportunity for children to participate in Apostles' children's ministry. We are using the "Faith 5"curriculum—Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless.

Preparing for Advent

There will be a short meeting after worship next Sunday, November 8th, to talk about preparations for Advent, in particular the Advent wreath. Anyone serving on Altar Guild is asked to attend as well as anyone interested in helping!

Time and Talent - There is Still Time!!!

If you didn't have a chance to fill out a Time and Talent survey for any of the 4 ministry teams (Administration, Caring Community, Service and Sharing and Worship), you can still do that. Forms are available in the narthex – just fill them out and put them in the offering plate. Thanks!

A Big THANK YOU To. . .

The Caring Community Ministry Team and P.E.O. for an OUSTANDING Fall Feast on Friday – everything was wonderful!!!

Mathew's Lions Club Fundraiser

The Mathew's Lions Club is having a fundraiser—they are having a shrimp dinner - 2 pounds of shrimp, coleslaw and corn on the cob for $40.00. The date is this coming Saturday, November 7th. If you would like tickets or need additional information, please see Linda Hodges. For several years, the Mathew's Lions Club has supplied eyeglasses for the Guatemala Medical Mission trip.

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Rich Bitting, Don Garfield, Ellen Kendzierski, David Leunig, Cyndi Lowe, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Ray Scholz, Pastor Jay Serafin, George Thomas, Rick Tucci, Lena Woodlief, and **Judy Wright**

Our Family and Friends

Natalie Abu Dayyeh, Patricia Armentor (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic)**, Paul Bauer**, **Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Juan Carlos, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Scott Jeffery, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Terri Larsen, Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Skye Sulton, Marier Upshrie, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

Our sponsored children in Guatemala

Amayra, **Hugolino, Manuela,** and **Pablo**

Prayer Requests

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

NOVEMBER 1, 2026 – NOVEMBER 8, 2026

TODAY	**10:00 AM**	**Worship Service**
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY	6:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	Prayer Chat
FRIDAY		Girl Scouts
SATURDAY	5:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	**10:00 AM**	**Worship Service**
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Michael Crocker – Mon, Nov 1 | **Nan Duff** and **Angie Goetz** – Fri, Nov 6 | **Chris Liljeberg** – Sun, Nov 8

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Pastor Jay and Jamie Serafin and **Kayla and Matthew Hautz** – Tue, Nov 3

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