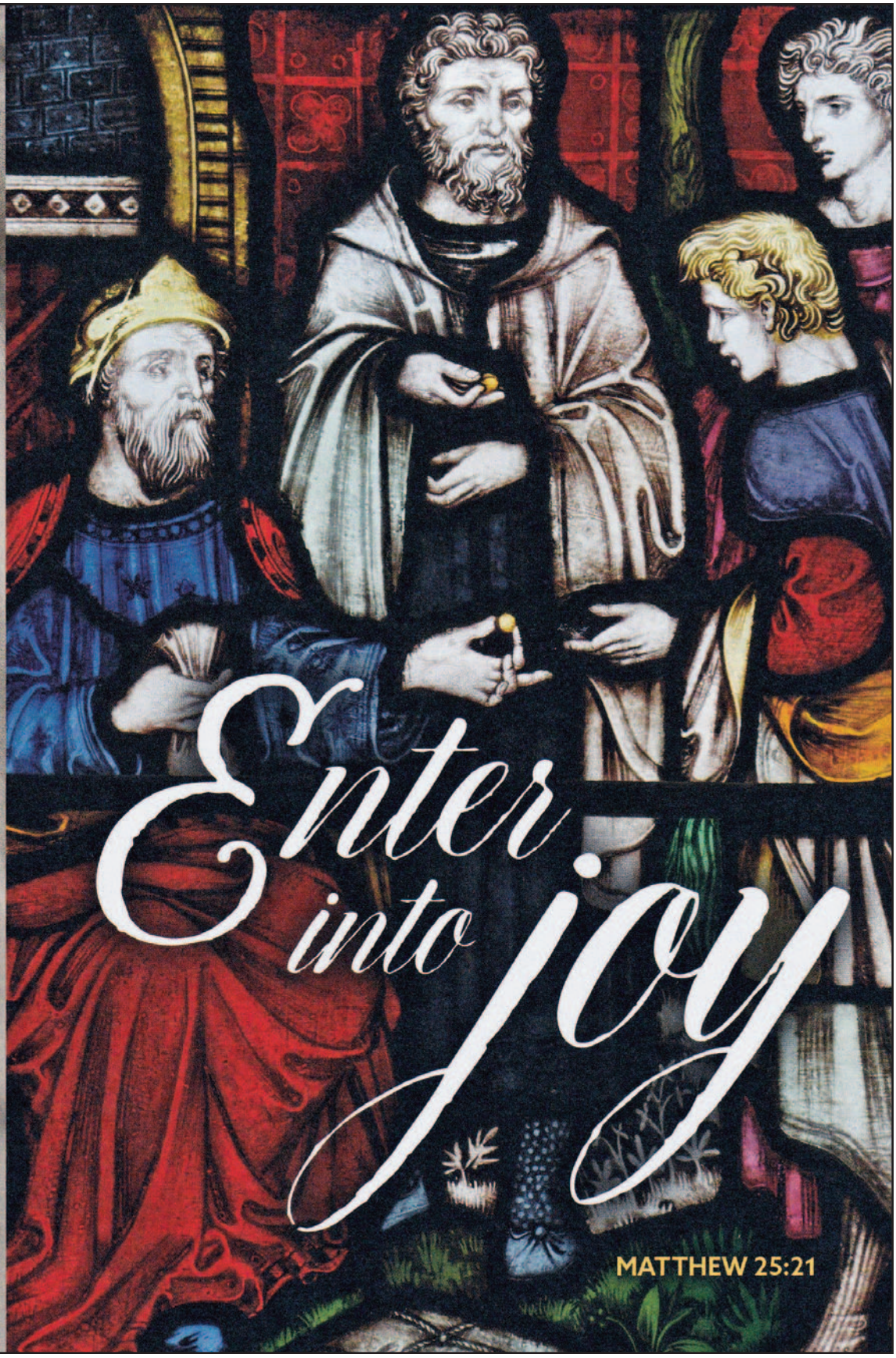
St. John Lutheran Church



Cover: Stained glass of the parable of the talents, St. Mary Abbots, London, England. Photo by jozef sedmak. Copyright © Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

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Tracks 1 and 2

20261115-LEC33 ITEM014782 ELCA-K

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

25th Sunday after Pentecost • November 15, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C. **Amen.**

P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

P. Most merciful God,

C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Christ be Our Light (#715)

Apostolic 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 p. 147

P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord**.**

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord**.**

C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**
Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

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***.*

Word

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Response: "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom."

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; R**
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. R**
[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. R**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to St. 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

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Ronald Frank DeMuro, III *(See Baptismal Booklet)*

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 (especially). 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 (especially).

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (other specific leaders or groups may be named). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

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 p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: As We Gather at the Table (#522)
Blessed Assurance (#638)
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (#674)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Dedicated by Cathy Valente in memory of Joe Valente.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	After Worship Service	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin Harvest Home Donations through November 22nd Toy Donations for Toys for Tots through December 5th
Sunday, November 15th	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, November 18th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Friday, November 20th	7:00 pm Games Begin	Designer Bag Bingo in the Ed. Building
Sunday, November 22nd	4:00 pm	Community Thanksgiving Service at First United Methodist

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Helen Dominic	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman
Krystal Booras	Frank Donovan	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Emily Meighan	Gladys Sheppard
Michael Botti	Marie Lentine Douglas	Ella Hirsch	Melanie Miles	Meilani Showell
Brian Byrnes	Tracey Drew	Valerie Hoffmann	Bill Murray	Frank Siderio III
Barbara Cadwaller	Indie Fisher	Makenzie Jack	Renate Murray	Maryann Smith
Meadow Cantoral	Kayla Friant	Ed Kagen	Erica Polito	Bill Steel
Randy Cantoral	Stephanie Friant	Tracey Kelly	Samantha Reed	Carol Taylor
Debbie Capasso	Rhea Fryor	Deb Kuhn	Howard Rolette	George Vaneman, Sr.
Janet Cappuccio	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Ashley Rosser	George Van Wagner
Joe Condoli	Scott Griffin	Doug Levandowski	Dorcas Schellhas	Beverly Warming
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Jean Schlotz	Mary White

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for $30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

Dedicated by Henry and Marie Fickenscher in memory of and in honor of their loved ones,



GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday after the Worship Service

(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!

Christ, Be Our Light

715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

522 As We Gather at Your Table



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

IN BABILONE
8 7 8 7 D

638 Blessed Assurance



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

ASSURANCE
9 10 9 9 and refrain

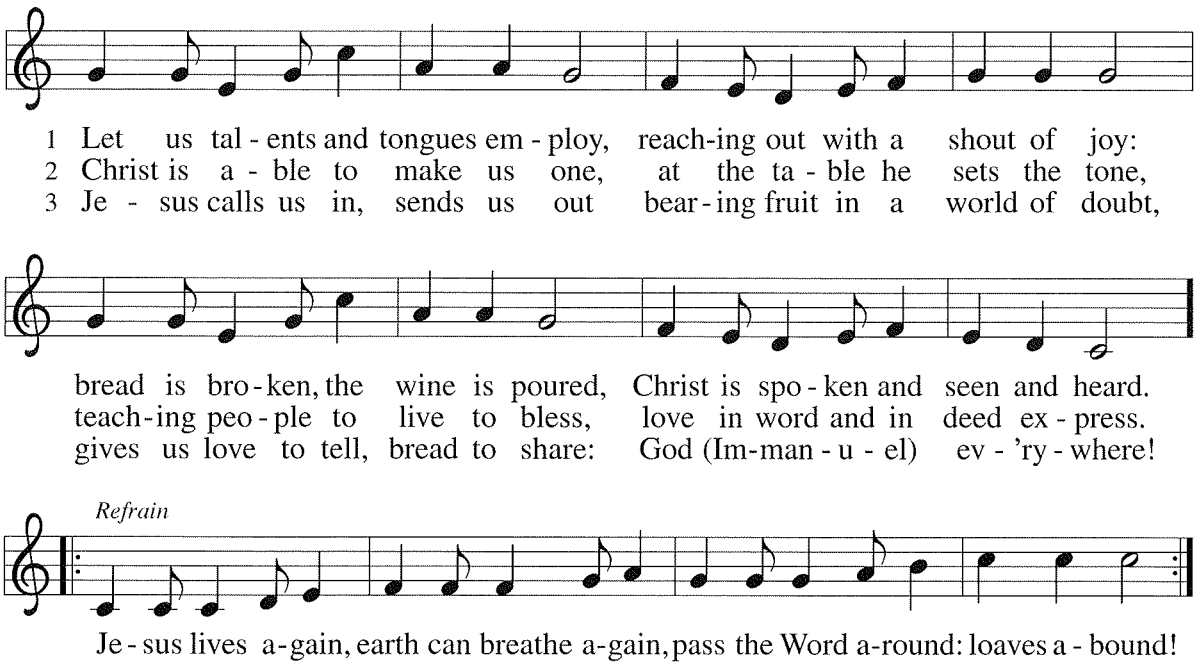
Let Us Break Bread Together 471



Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
10 10 and refrain

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ 674



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

LINSTEAD
LM and refrain

SAVE TIME . . . no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

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- Scan the QR code to get started
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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver
Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher
Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith
Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver
Head Usher: Ted Adams
Sexton: Betsey Eley
Webmaster: Tom Schofield
Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, November 15th
11:30 am–12:30 pm
In the Parish House



GRIEF GATHERING

Wednesday, November 18th
7:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room
All Are Welcome!



Sunday, November 22, 2026 • 4:00 pm
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WILLIAMSTOWN
159 S Main St, Williamstown, NJ



ST. JOHN'S HARVEST HOME

Donations accepted through November 22nd

Help our Sunday School gather items for families with food insecurities this holiday season.



Saturday
December 5th
Time: 5:00 pm

TOYS FOR TOTS
U.S. MARINE CORPS

For more information go to www.toysfortots.org
Contact: Buzz Etschman • 856-516-2758 (cell)

Please place toy donations in the box located in Ed. Building Foyer by December 5th.





St. John's Lutheran Church

970 B South Main Street, Williamstown

Bags, Bingo, and Big Blessings!

Can I Get an AMEN . . . and a Michael Kors?

Coach • Kate Spade • Michael Kors • Dooney and Bourke

Friday, Nov. 20th

Doors Open 6 PM | Games 7 to 10 PM

$40 per ticket includes 3 dauber cards per game

Lots of Friends? Reserve a table (10 people)

- 10 games • Basket Raffles • 50/50
- Complimentary desserts and coffee
- Beverages, soft pretzels and daubers available for purchase
- Must be 18 or older to play

To purchase tickets ONLINE scan here:
or contact: Stephanie Weist
at (856) 912-9875 or sch8730@msn.com