Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry
25th Sunday after Pentecost - November 15, 2026

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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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. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. 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.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider: Pastor Bob Cochran**;** Asst/Preacher: Jane Unger; Organist: Bekah Davenport; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Viola: Lydia Kress; Autoharp: Kayden Brafford; Time with Children: Puppets; Acolyte: Eliza; Tray Server: Greg Newton; Greeters: Cathi Schwalbauch, Jim Sillery; Ushers: Dan Snoddy, Tim Prange; Livestream: Doug Debrick*

WELCOME ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE **For the Beauty** **Michael Tobar and Matthew Chester-Griffin**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
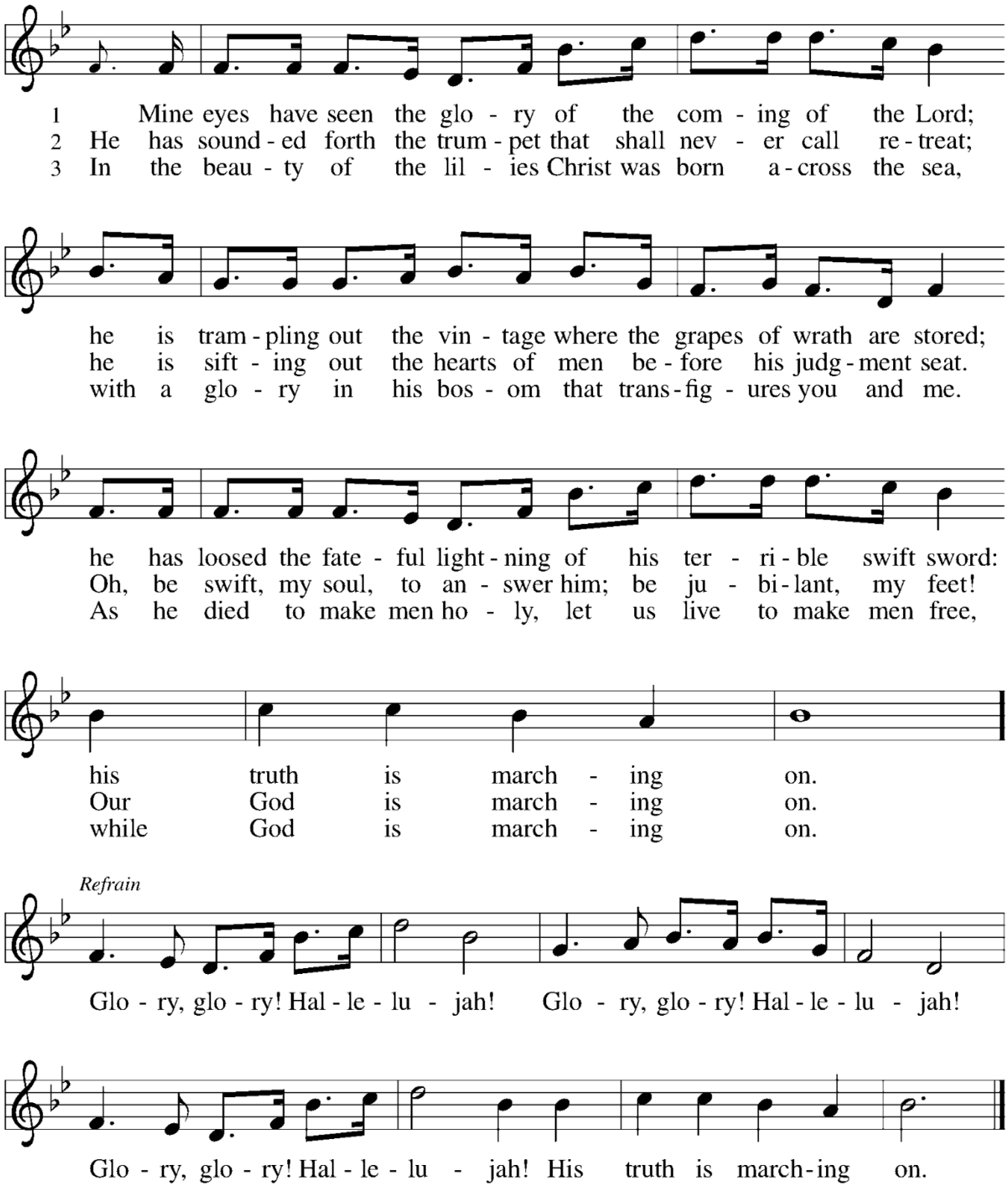
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
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 squandered your bountiful gifts.
We have considered
the blessings of the harvest our due.
We have been indifferent
in planning and planting
for the future needs of your Church.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us,
cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts,
and wisdom to mature in our minds,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you
with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Battle Hymn of the Republic*** **(ELW 890)**
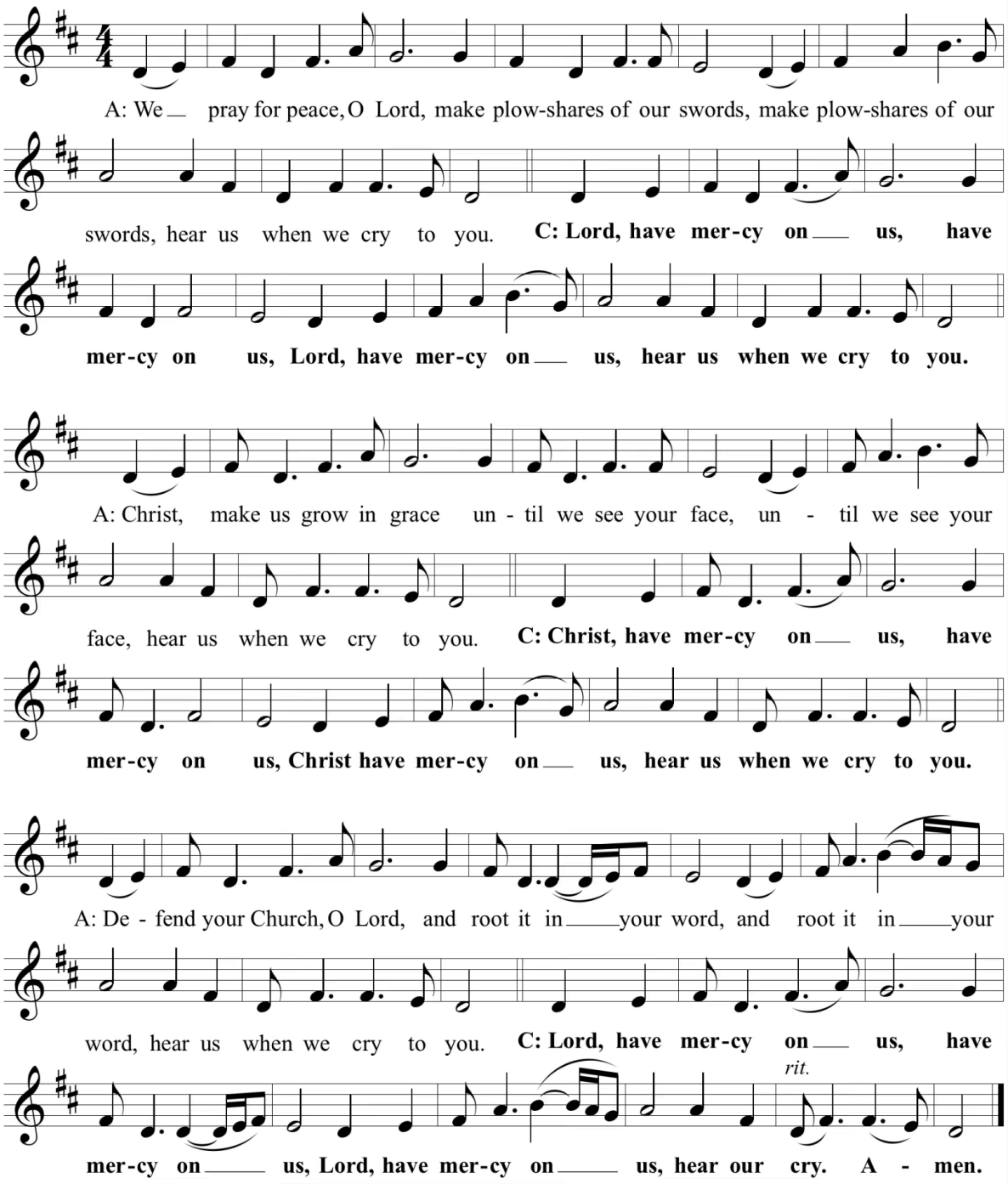


Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent

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 (tune: *My Father, How Long*)

Leader sings parts marked "A"
Congregation sings parts marked "**C**"



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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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 90:1-8, 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.
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

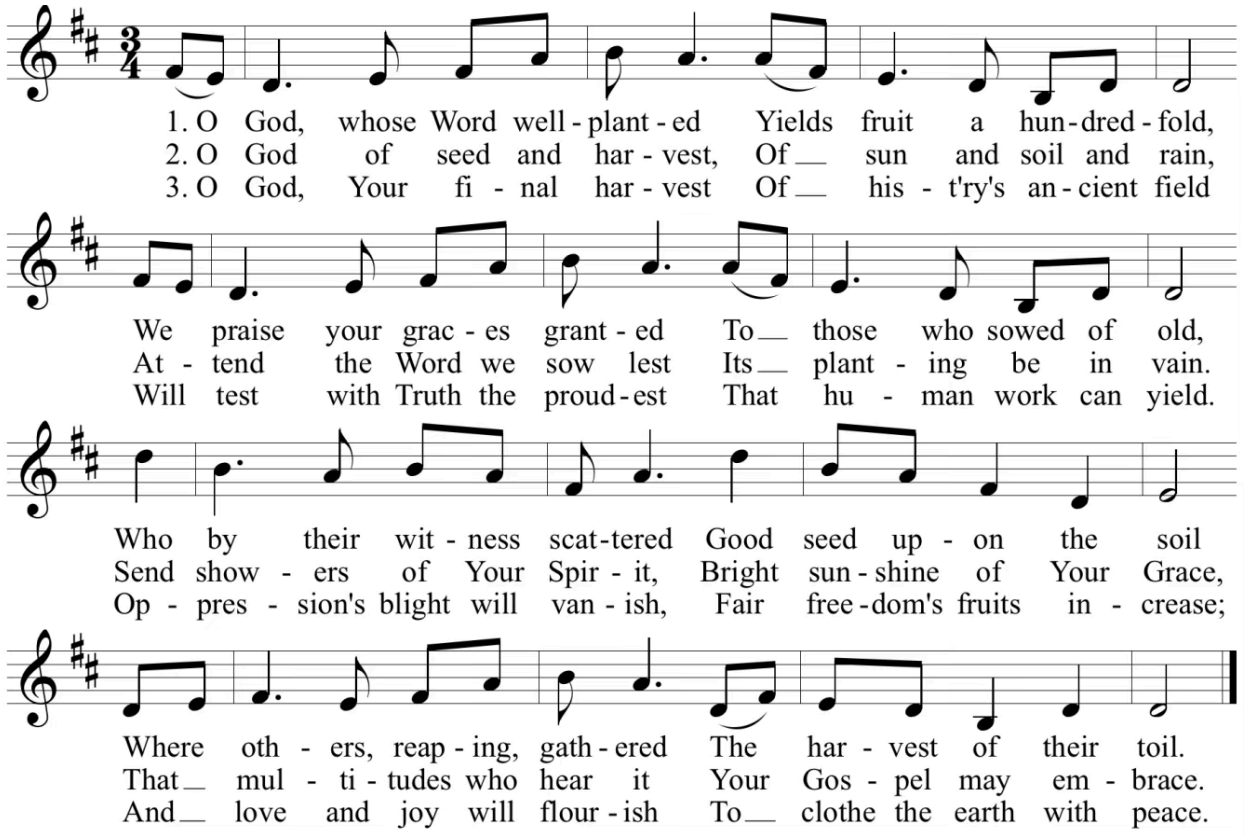
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

1 Now 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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (Verse 1 only)

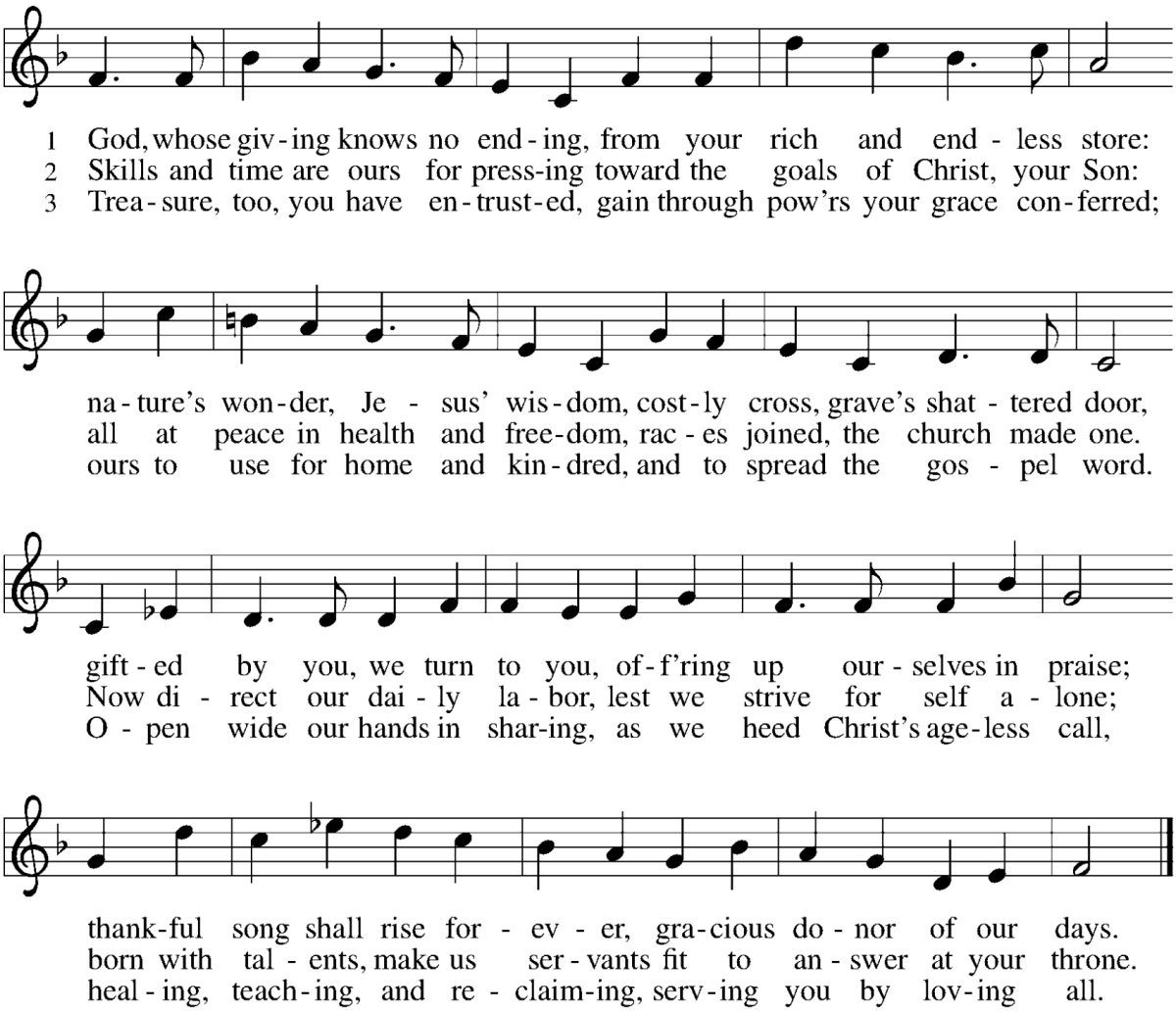


GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according 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

HYMN OF THE DAY ***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** **(ELW 678)**



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of compassion, we give you thanks for your enduring love for all your people. Give strength and courage to those men, women, and children who are victims of domestic violence. May you show them safe paths forward as they leave abusive relationships. Surround them with caring people and helpful resources so they can rebuild their lives to know safety, stability, and love again.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, be with all of those in our community affected by this trauma. Be with case managers, healthcare professionals, child advocates, and criminal

justice agencies as they support and link victims with community-based resources. May you give us the strength and courage to reach out and support our neighbors in their time of need.
Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

And there are so many others to pray for. Please be with those who are ill in mind, body or spirit. Let them know that you are there with them so they don't have to be afraid. And be with those who care for them to give them the strength they need for that very hard work.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those in war zones. Keep them safe and help them to not be so afraid, for we know that you are with them to surround them and comfort them.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who care for the earth; those who fight fires, rescue people from floods and help restore the damage that natural disasters cause.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Be with all of our children. Help them to be strong in the face of those who would bully them. Help them to learn how the world works and help them to grow into caring adults who will carry your work forward.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who are dying and those who mourn. It is because people matter to us that we grieve and it is because we are convinced that people matter to God that we can have hope.
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Let us celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries coming up this week and to share here those special prayers for those we care about, either aloud or in our hearts…
Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

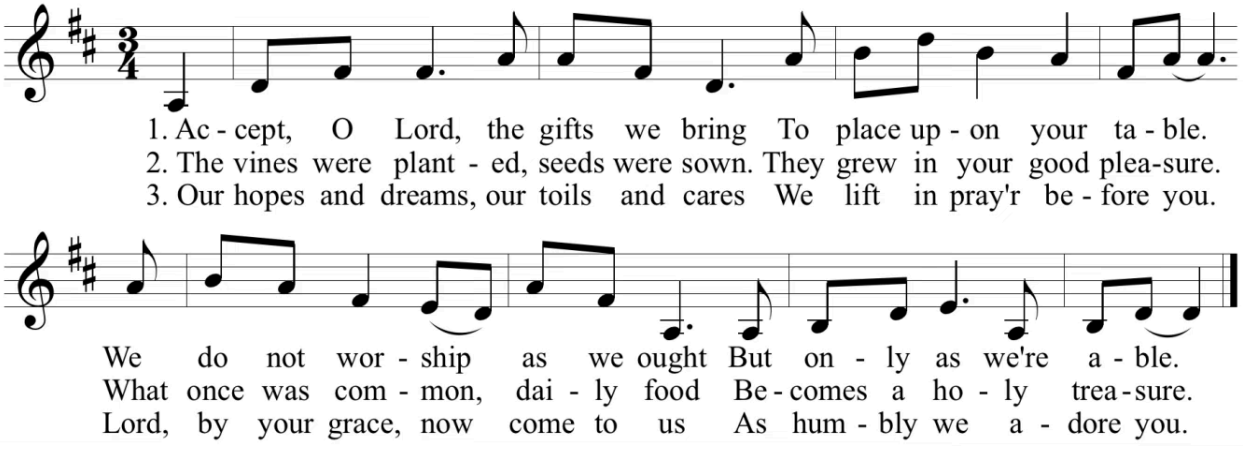
We pray for a world that needs to know your love, your hope,
your peace, your joy and Salvation.
A world that needs to know it is special, unique
and is uniquely loved by a Heavenly Father. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions on how to text to give or download our church app!

MUSICAL OFFERING **Let All Things Now Living** **CLC Choir**

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,
You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life,
growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
Accept the first fruits of time and toil,
field and orchard we offer here.
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture
and the care of your creation;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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.

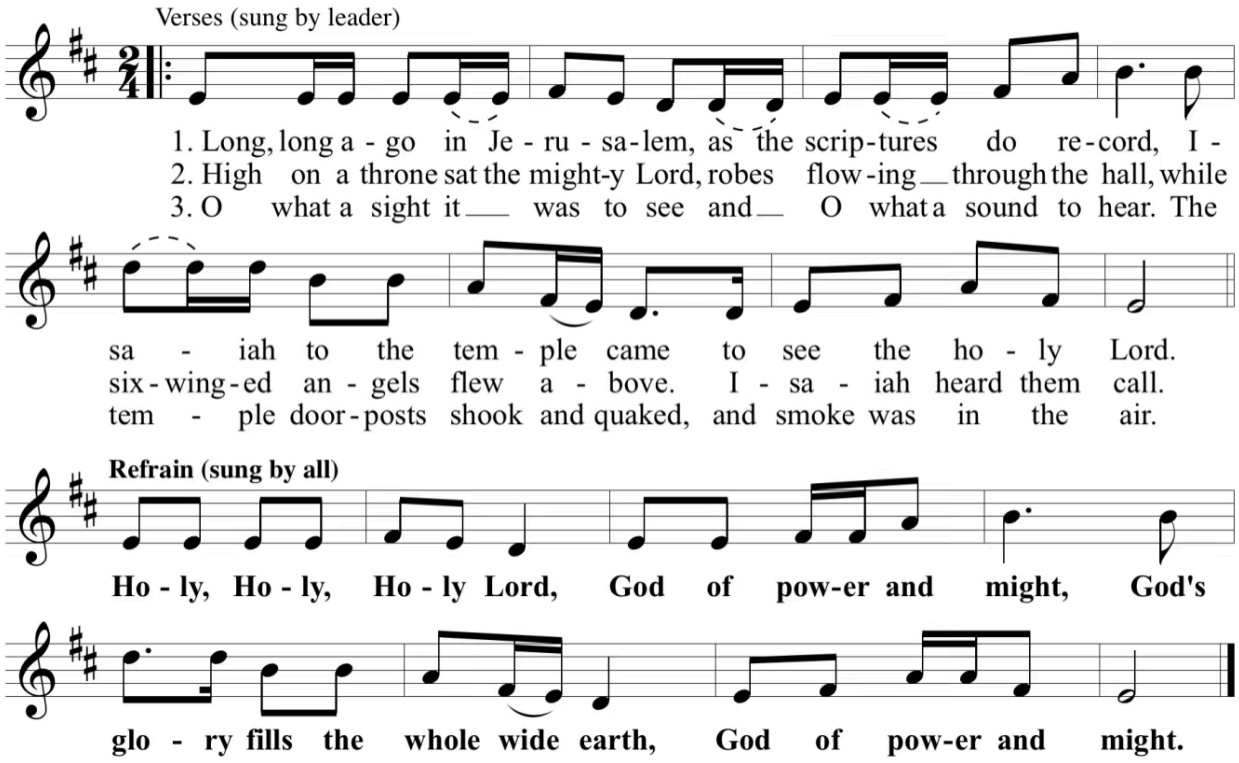
PROPER PREFACE

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.
Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you
rather than earthly treasure.

For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in adoring song:

(VERSES 1&3 ONLY)

Sanctus (tune: *Shady Grove*)



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

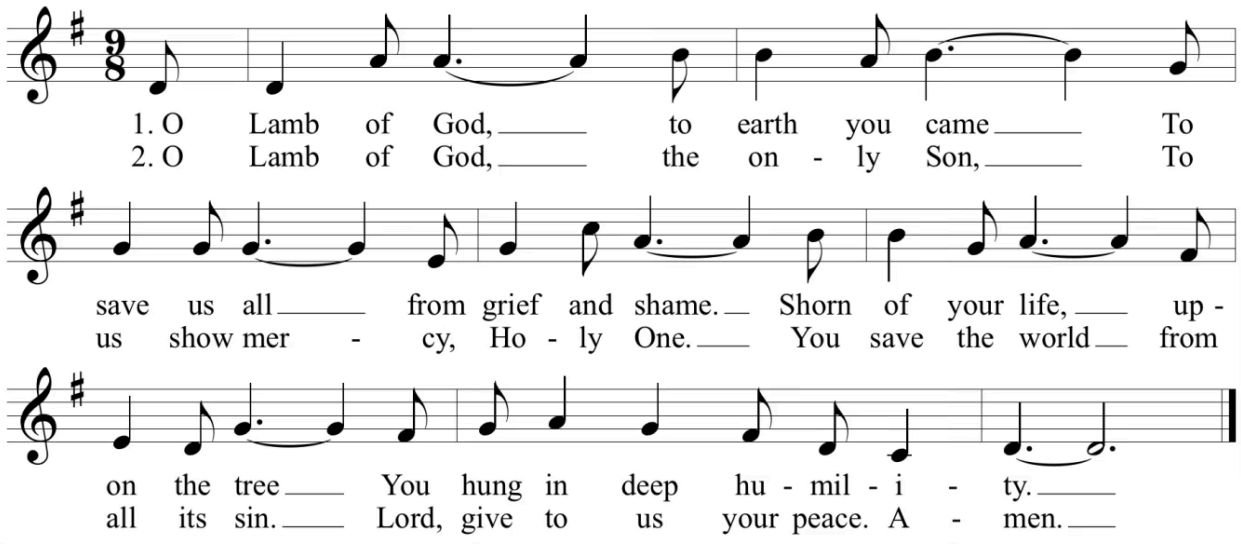
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

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

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.
Thanks be to God.

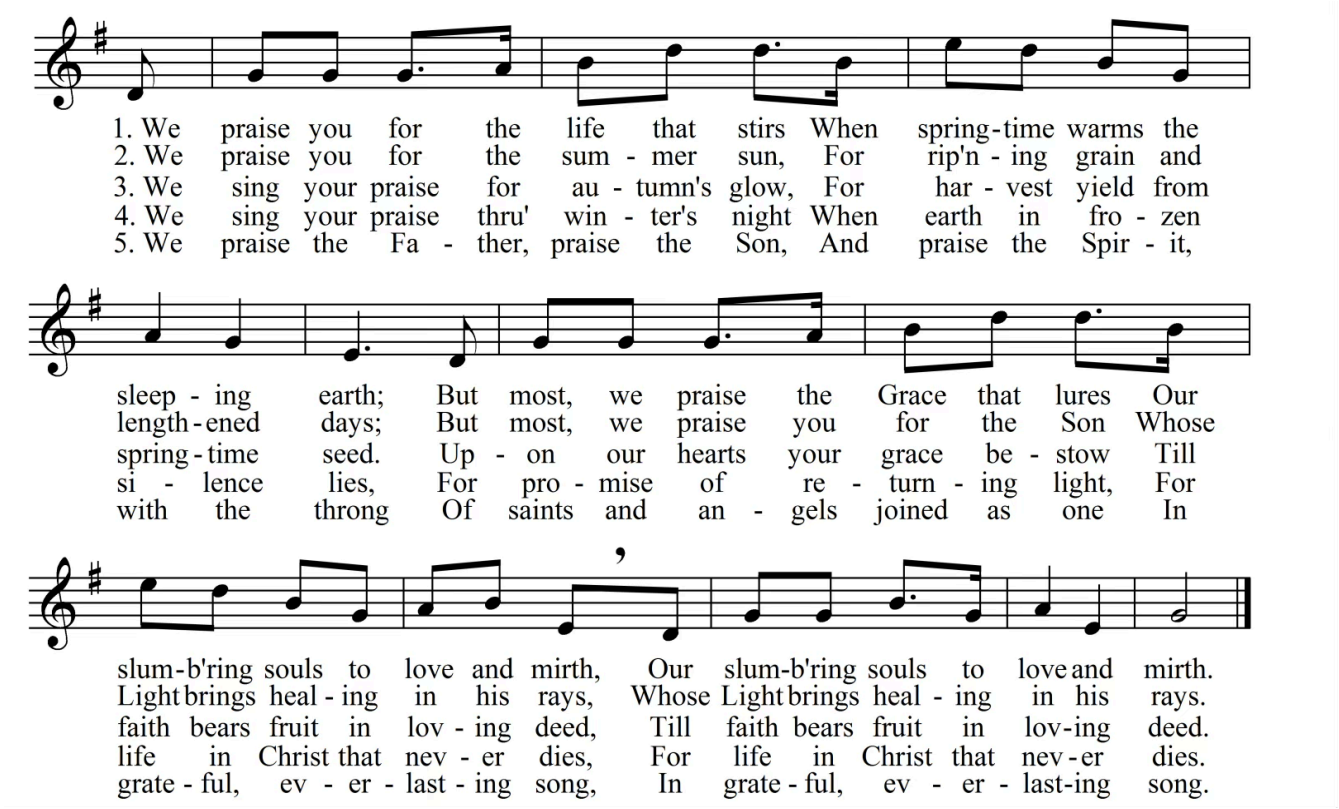
AGNUS DEI
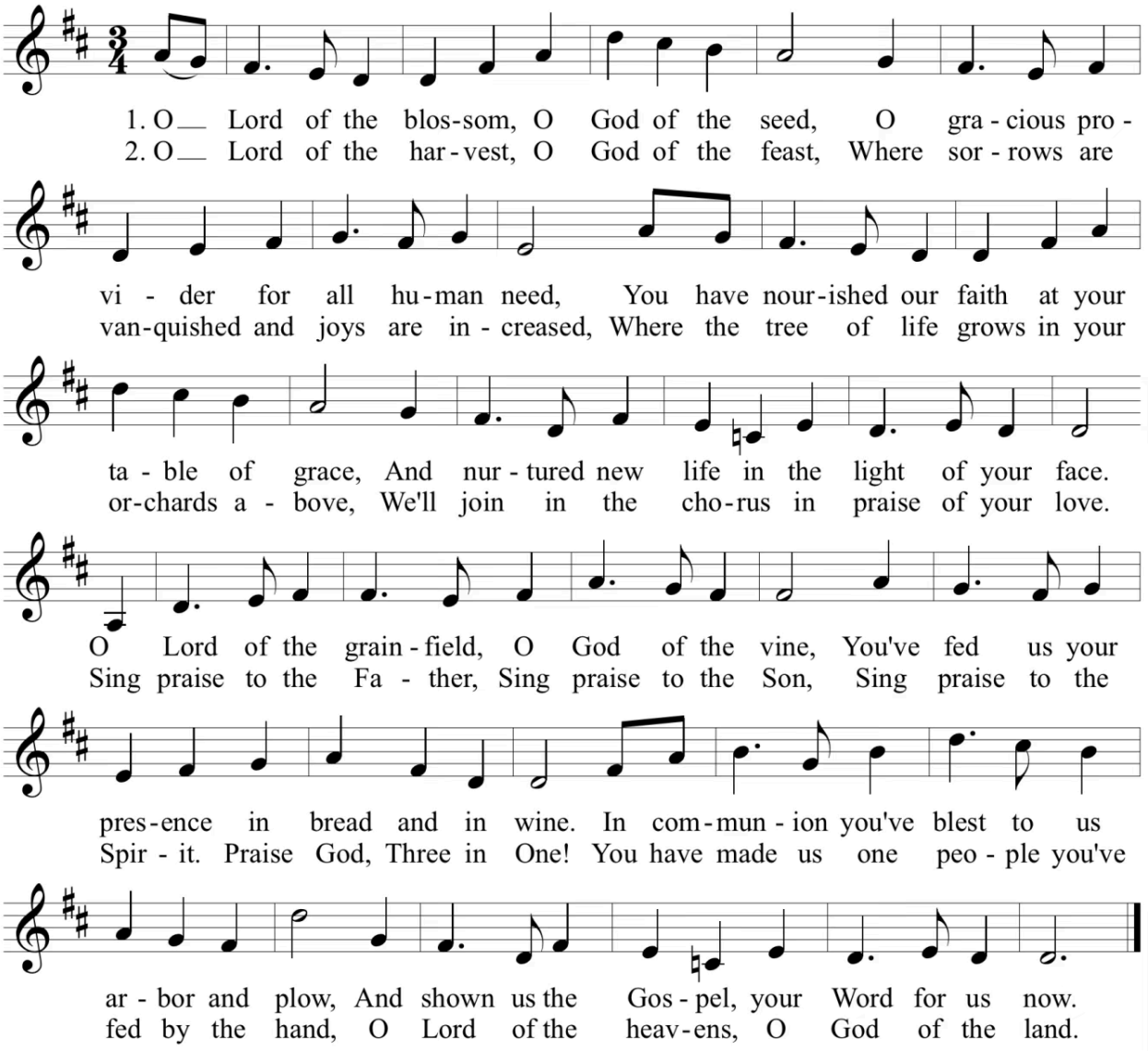


COMMUNION

(Whatever the state of your faith today, ALL are invited to the Lord's table. No Exceptions.
To receive communion, come forward at the ushers' direction and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread, then you may choose either red wine or white grape juice in a small glass, or sip wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass, you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine, you will return to your seat.)

COMMUNION HYMN (Sung during the distribution)



SONG AFTER COMMUNION (Verse 1 only)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
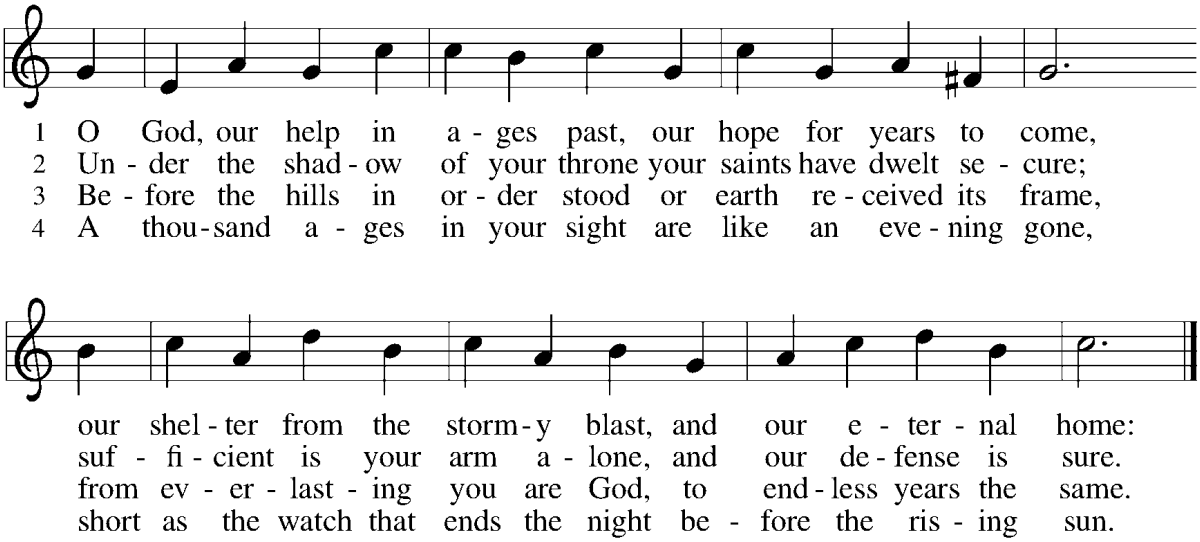
Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** **(ELW 632)**



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: St. Anne, William Croft, 1678–1727

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.