ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15th, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 890

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



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

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

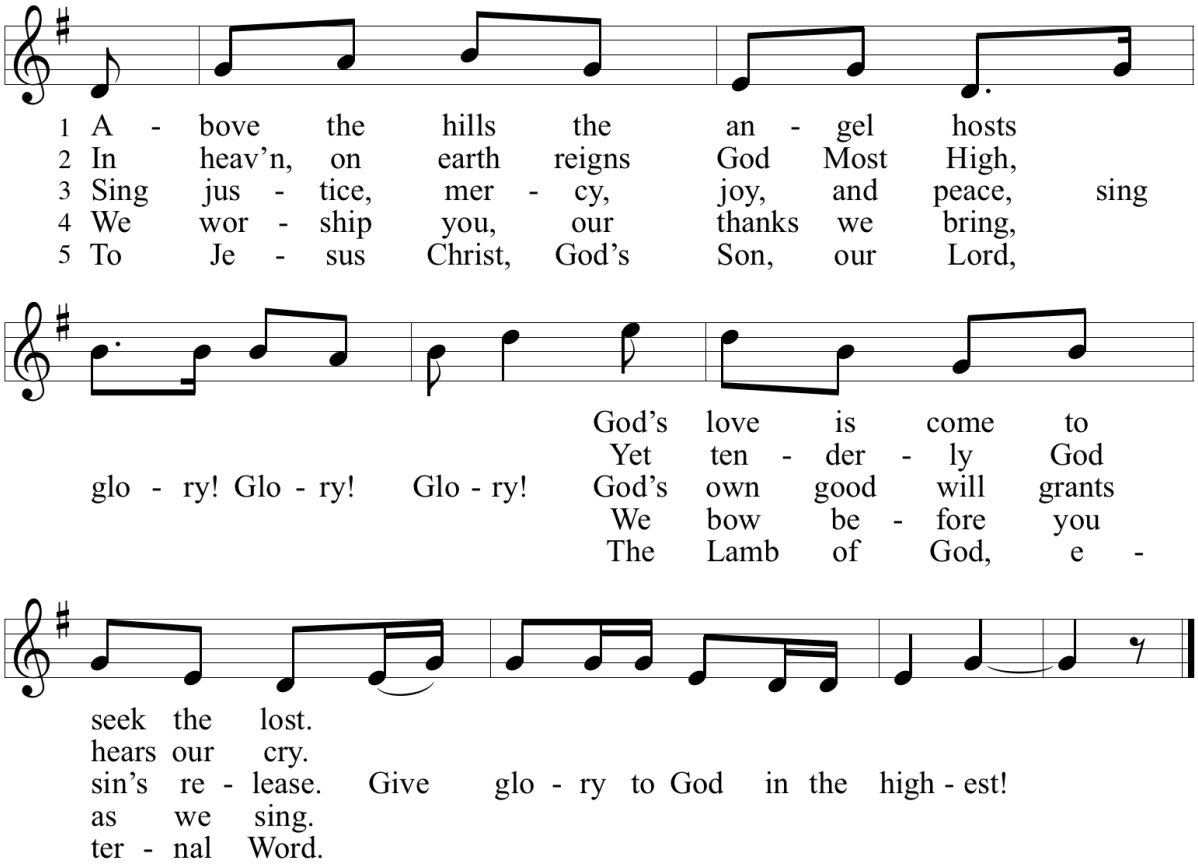
P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Kyrie


Cantor
We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow - shares of our swords, make
plow - shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer - cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.
Cantor
Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -
til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have
mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.
Cantor
De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and
root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.
Assembly
Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have
mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

Glory



GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."

The great day of the Lord is near— near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

"I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. 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 jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN



*GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter, beginning with the 14th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

"'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 870

We Praise You, O God



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come 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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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 Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, Diane Busdiecker, Sarah Burke, Pat Nowak, Mary Ann and Chip Orlando, and all those we name in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen.

PEACE

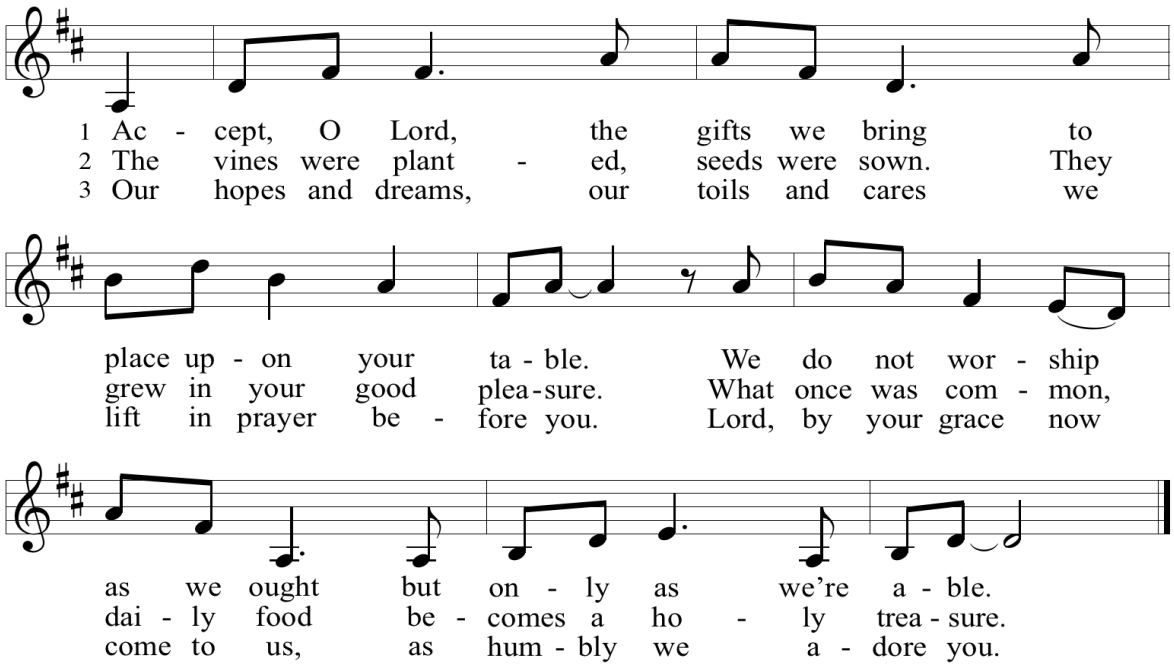
P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE



*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: 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

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.

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: We praise and thank you, abounding God, because you demand so much from us and at the same time give us everything you expect of us. In the glory of creation and the grace of liberation you set the contours of our journey with you. By crafting the covenant and by renewing your people in exile you showed us the manner and purpose of your ever-flowing love. In Jesus you gave us your most precious talent. Though we buried him through our ignorance and sin, you raised him to multiply your church and spread abroad your kingdom. And so we give you thanks with saints and angels and the company of heaven, joining their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

P: 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.

And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

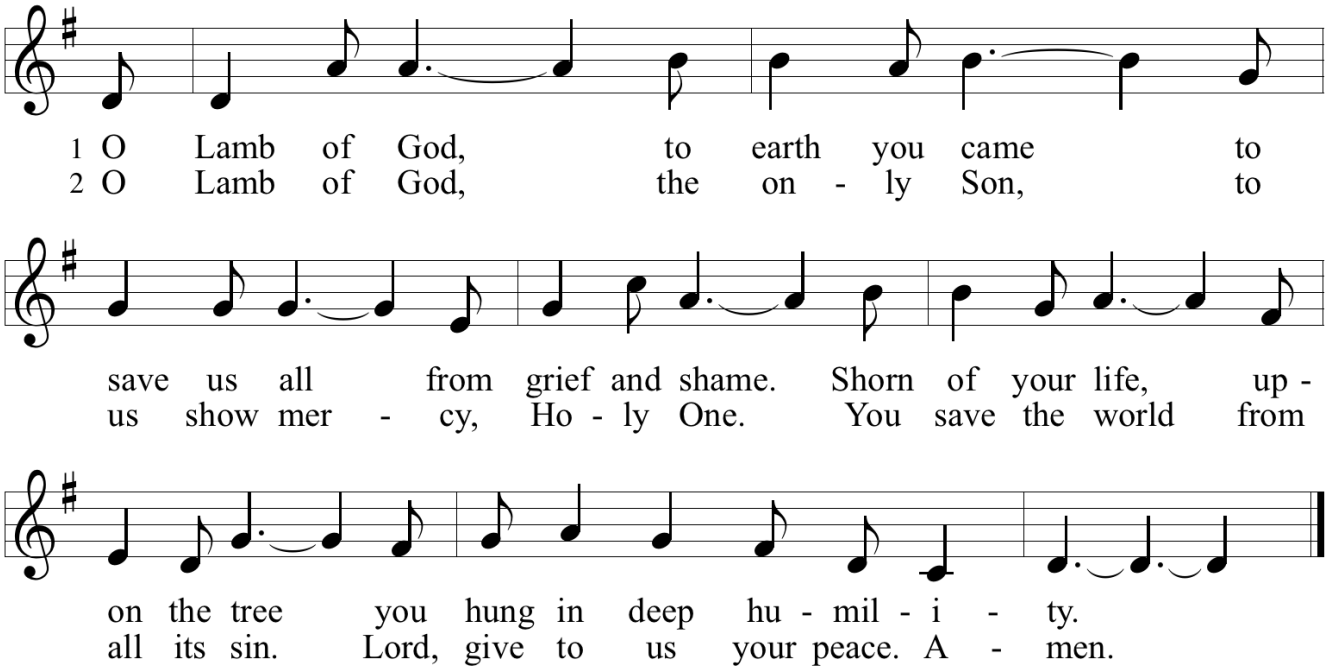
*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

C: 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

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

COMMUNION MUSIC



*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

SENDING

*PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

(A prayer for the sending of communion may be read)

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: Amen.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – ELW 789

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Savior, like A Shepherd Lead Us



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAY FOR...

ROSEMARY RIZZO
TONY RIZZO
ERIN JANKOWSKI
DEE MARINOV
MARYANN AND CHIP
ORLANDO
SARAH BURKE
DIANE BUSDIECKER
THE DICKIE FAMILY
PAT NOWAK

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI
MAYA CHAKRABORTY
KATHERINE SIKORSKI
ANGELA ROESER
EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER
JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER
DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS
REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR
KEVIN MACIVER- SECOND COUSIN OF ANNETTE BERG
WANDA ZYGMUNTOWICZ- FRIEND OF JOE SOMMA
DAN GRAUPMAN- COUSIN OF SUE GIBBONS
JAMES STONER - BROTHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL
ROBERT G. HABERMEHL-FATHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL
GRACE - GRANDDAUGHTER OF PAT NOWAK
RICHARD HITCHCOCK- FATHER OF MATT HITCHCOCK
THE LERNER FAMILY-FRIENDS OF CATHY LAMBERT
DAVID PEASE-BROTHER OF DEBORAH WALDROP

Book Club will meet on November 22nd to discuss The Correspondent by Virginia Evans.

The Correspondent is written in epistolary format. Through letters to various recipients, Sybil Van Antwerp examines her life and confronts a painful past, learning to find forgiveness and move forward.

Discussion Leader: Kathy Hannon | Host: Tim Madsen

The non-perishable Thanksgiving food drive is underway! Please put donations in the labeled bin in the foyer, and the wish list is in the weekly newsletter.

The Hands-Only CPR class will be held after the service today. Prior sign up is needed.

SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE

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Angel Tree Project

Our Angel Tree Project will once again be collecting school supplies and hats, mittens, and scarves for the children at School #74 in Buffalo. Trinity East Amherst joins us by providing many of the books we give to each child in the school, pre-k through 8th grade.

Please consider donating school supplies like pencils, pens, crayons, markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, or children's scissors.

If donating hats, scarves, or mittens- keep in mind the children range from 4-13 years old. Please DO NOT GIFTWRAP your donations.

Donations can be put in the labeled boxes in the foyer. Your gifts can be dropped off Sundays and weekdays between 8am and noon.

The drive runs November 8th through December 13th at which our gifts will be delivered to School #74.



Awake to the Grace of God

Linked with the reading from 1 Thessalonians and Psalm 90, Jesus' parable of the talents invites a full-hearted response to God's lavish gifts of faith and purpose: "Use 'em if you've got 'em!" The people of God are meant to be engaged, alert, and ready to share what we have received from our prodigally (wastefully) generous God. While the parable has sometimes been interpreted in the context of judgment, a careful reading also spotlights the beauty of the faith-generated response to God's lavish grace.

One word for this is stewardship. Presented in light of God's gift of faith and purpose, this "churchy" term can today be transformed to new understanding in the proclamation of the gospel text. Instead of the weight of obligation and duty we so often associate with religion, we are invited today to another way: What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God?

On the surface Jesus' parable is a simple premise: the contrast of workers who please and workers who disappoint their master. Psalm 90 sings to us to carefully treasure our lifetimes, for there is something at stake. First Thessalonians is a letter reminding people they have exactly what they need to survive and thrive.

What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God?

In a time when so many people are discouraged with work, home, life, and church, a word from Jesus' parables may be healing, enriching, and startlingly attractive. The gospel text today is an opportunity to remind the people of God that there is a depth to faith that is sustainable. In fact, beneath the parables of Jesus is a depth it will take a lifetime to unpack.

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE
PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD
ORGANIST

DAWN SAGERMAN
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

DAVID JOHNSTON
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

JOE BROWN & KARL KRISTOFF
USHERS

CINDY SIKORSKI
ALTAR GUILD