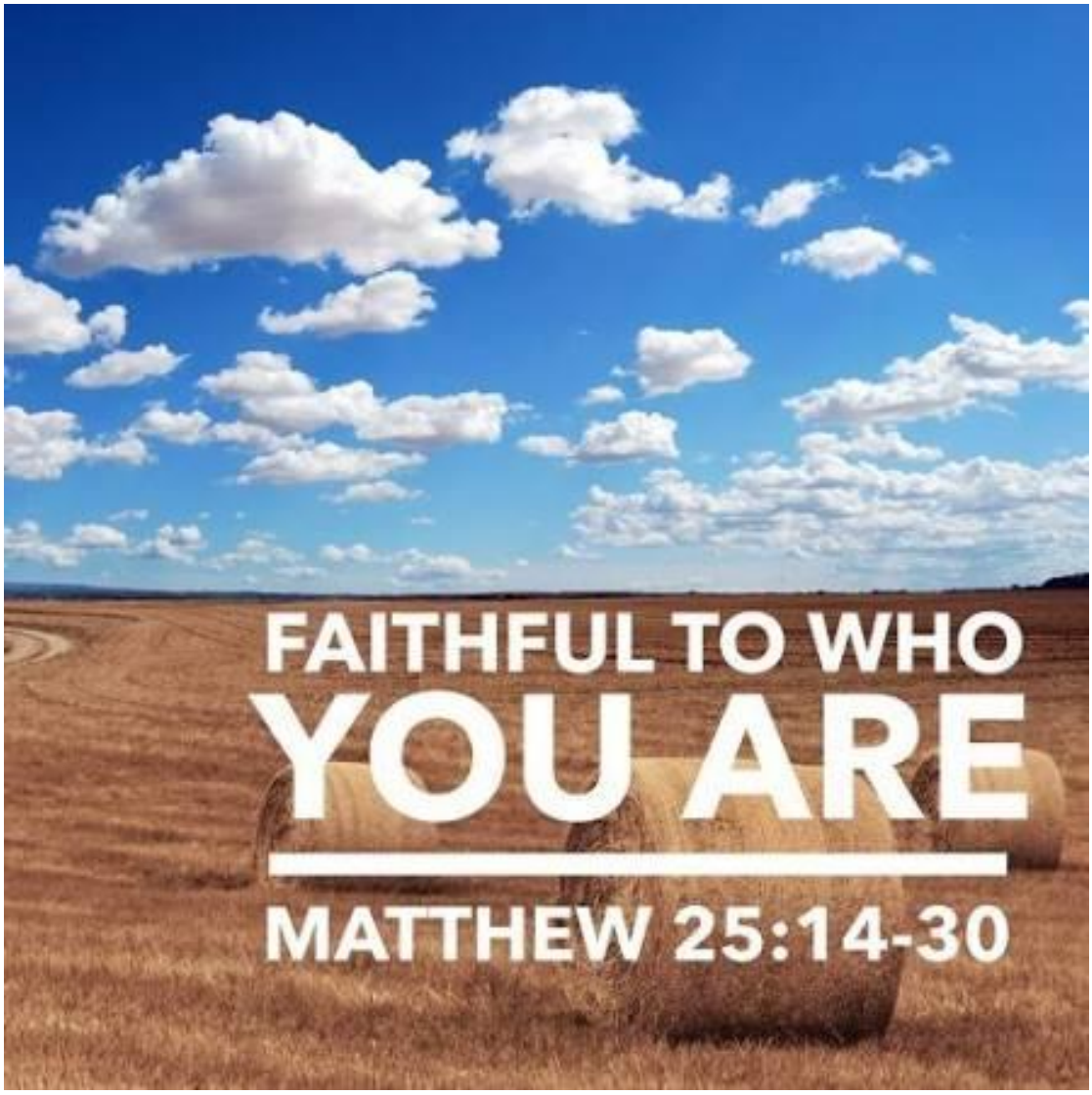
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ November 15, 2026 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church
300 O'Neal Road
Greer, South Carolina
Office (864) 877-5876

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.



Ministers	The People of Redeemer
Pastor	The Rev. Elise T. Stringer
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Jackie Pitts
Director of Music Ministries	Mrs. Donna Cotter

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.
Today we welcome Pastor Shannon Mullen to preach and preside.

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US this Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876.

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.

WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND SPEAK QUIETLY.

PRELUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**

The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism.

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

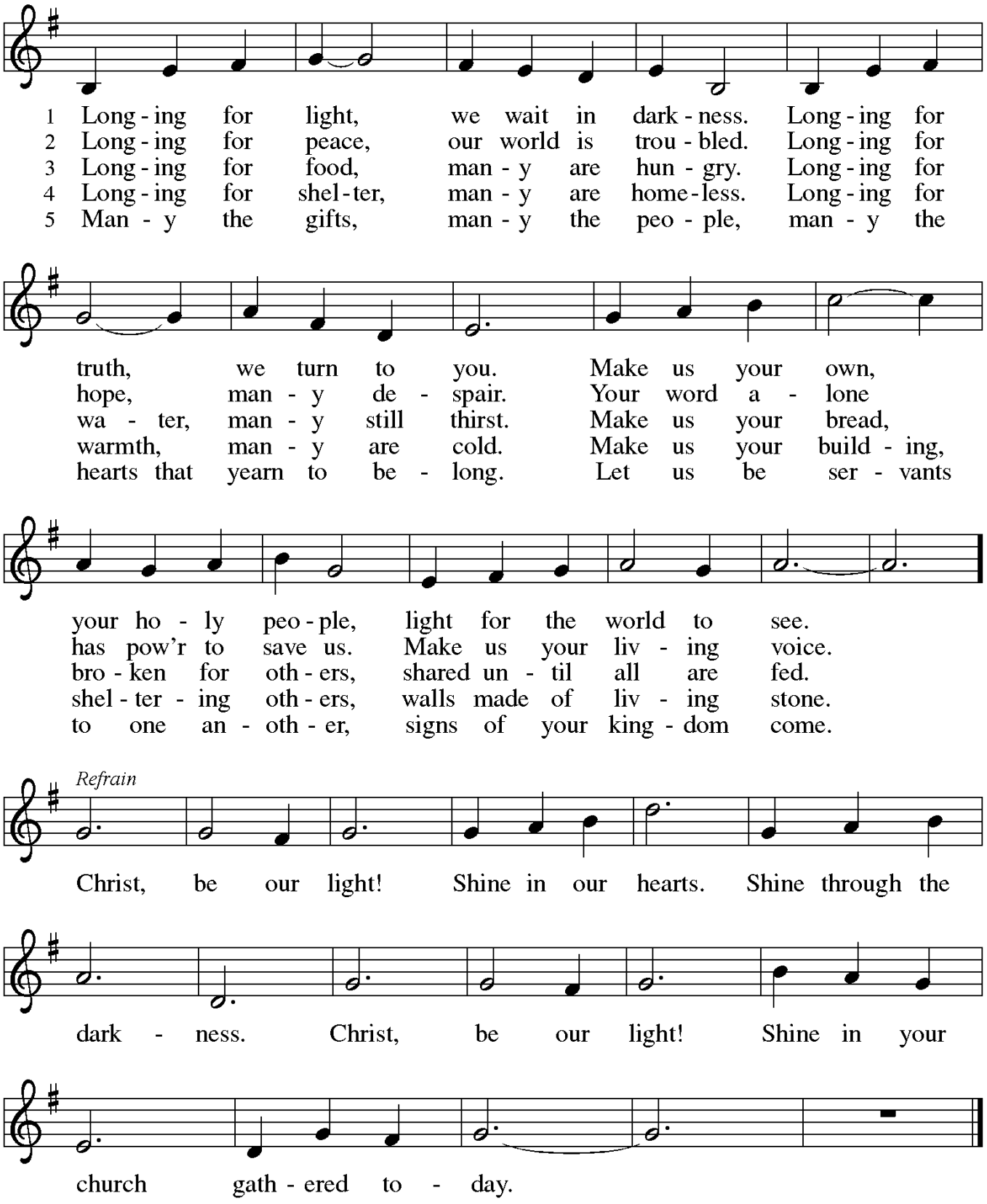
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT* **ELW #715**

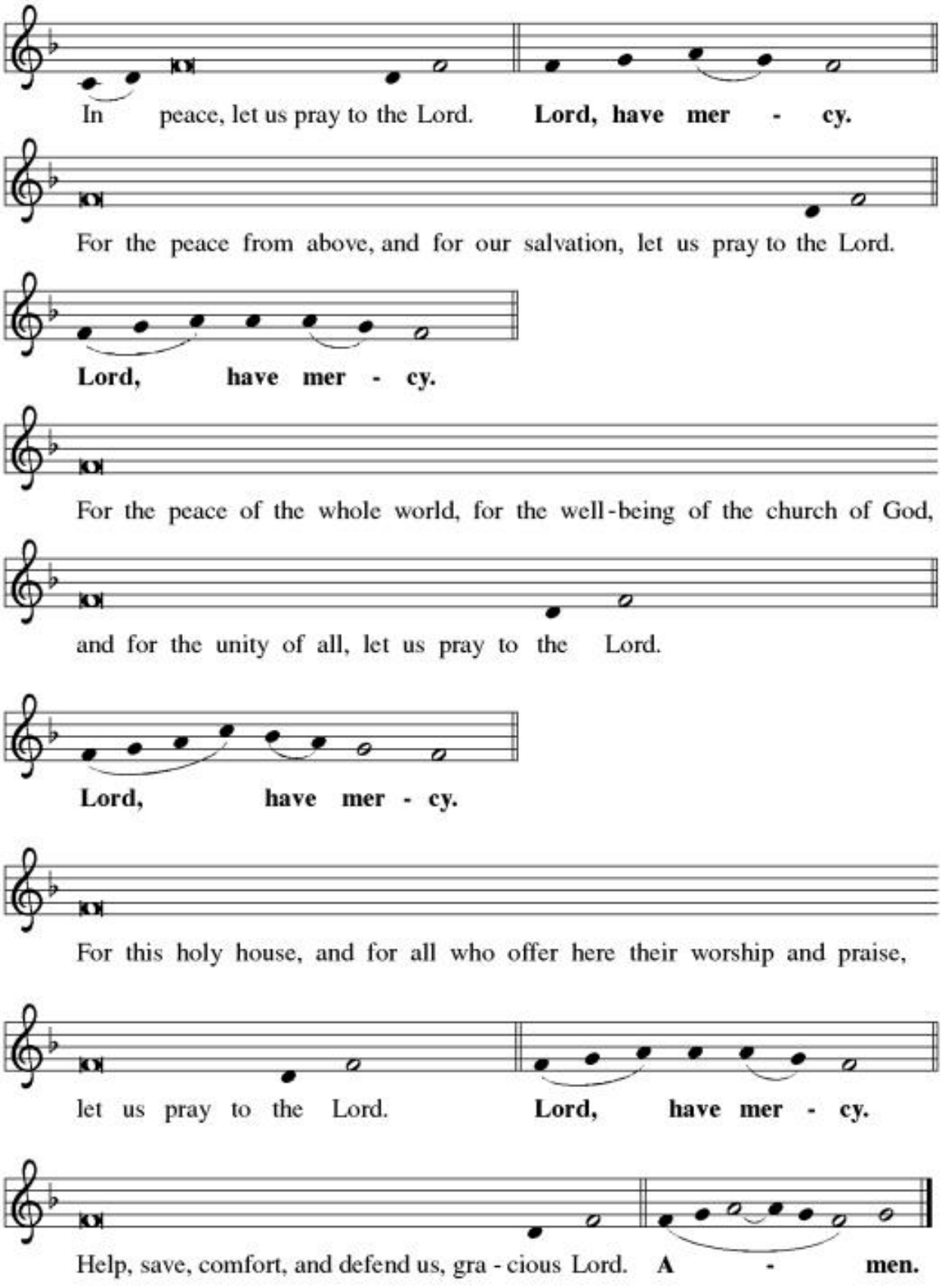


Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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GREETING
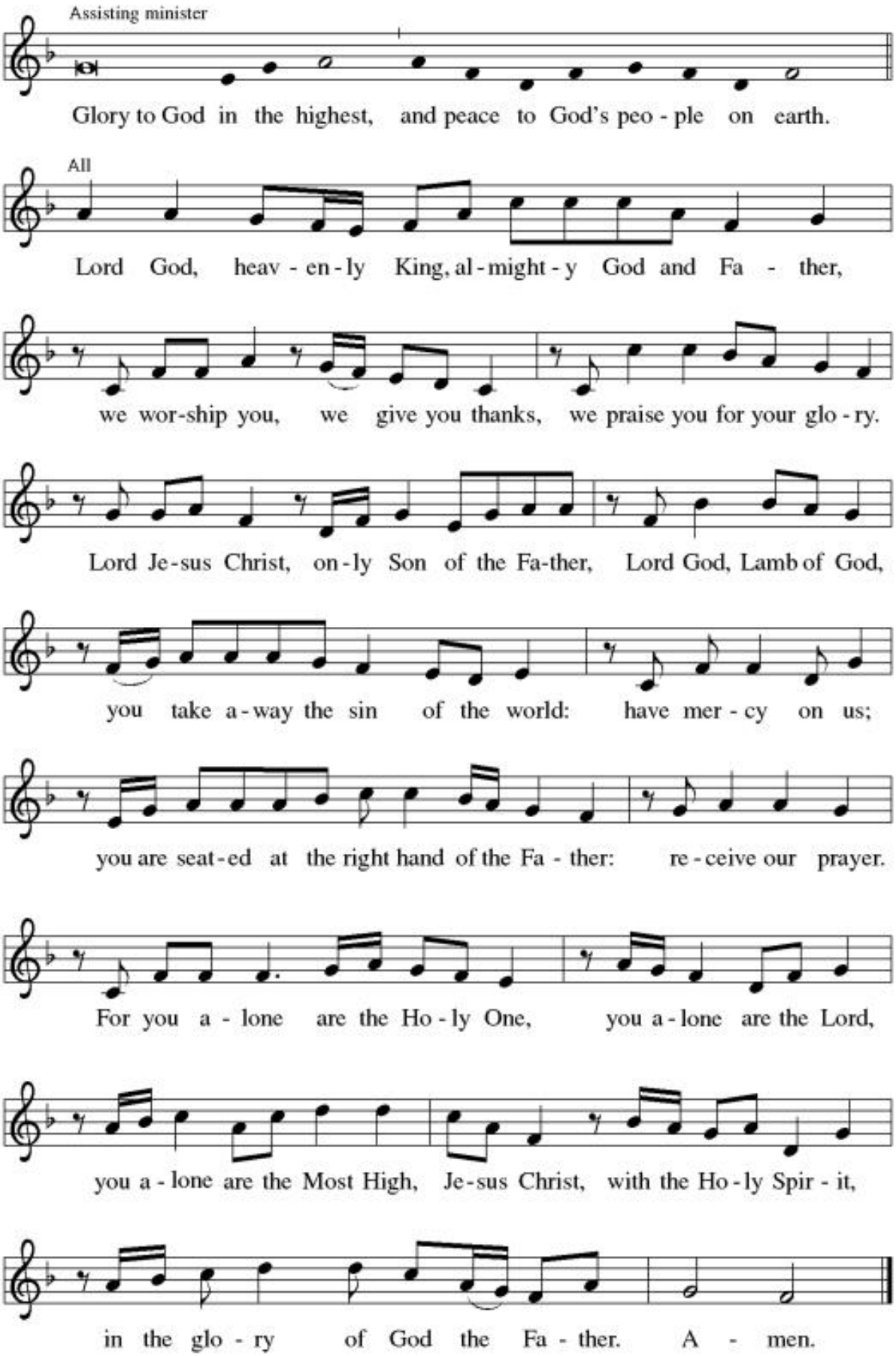
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE **ELW p. 138**



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 139



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.**

We Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON **Pastor Shannon Mullen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord. (not read aloud)

A reading from Zephaniah Chapter 1:

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

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

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 child- | ren 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.
[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 num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (not read aloud)
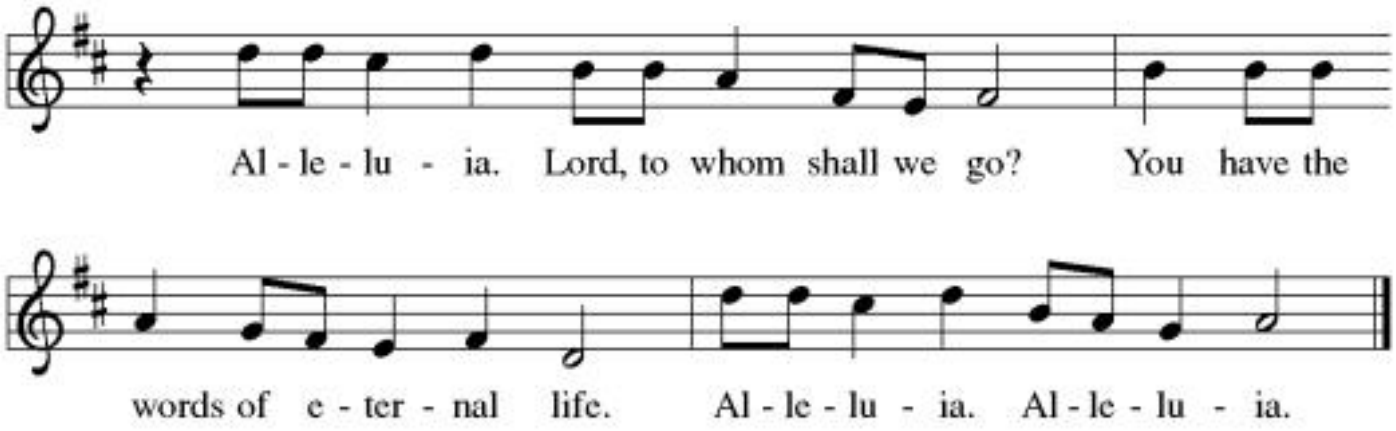
A reading from 1 Thessalonian's Chapter 5:

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 142**



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter. **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.**

THE SERMON **Pastor Shannon Mullen**

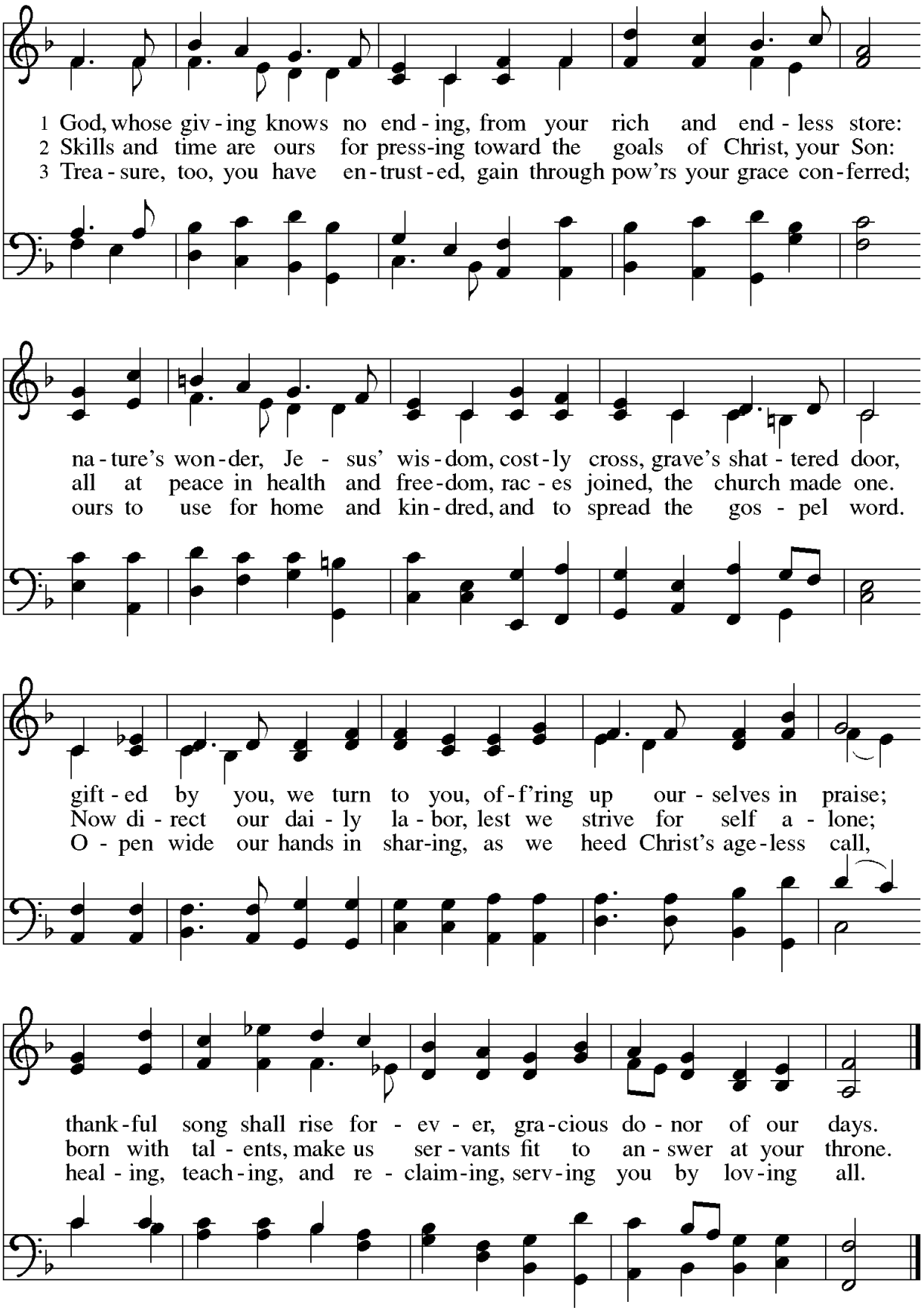
HYMN OF THE DAY *GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING* **ELW #678**
(printed on next page)



We love our Veterans! Thank you for service and sacrifice.

Pictured left to right: Mike Bauer, Wade Tate, Aaron Cornwell, Chuck Pegram, John Gremillion, Rev. Kevin Koger, Tom Roberts, Missy Logan, Sonny Lybrand, Dick Falconer, Del King, John Fouke, Beto Damian, Phil Rhoads, Tom Lewis, and Bob Cotter.

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,
he 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
Offered by the Assisting Minister

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. 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 those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the Gospel. 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.

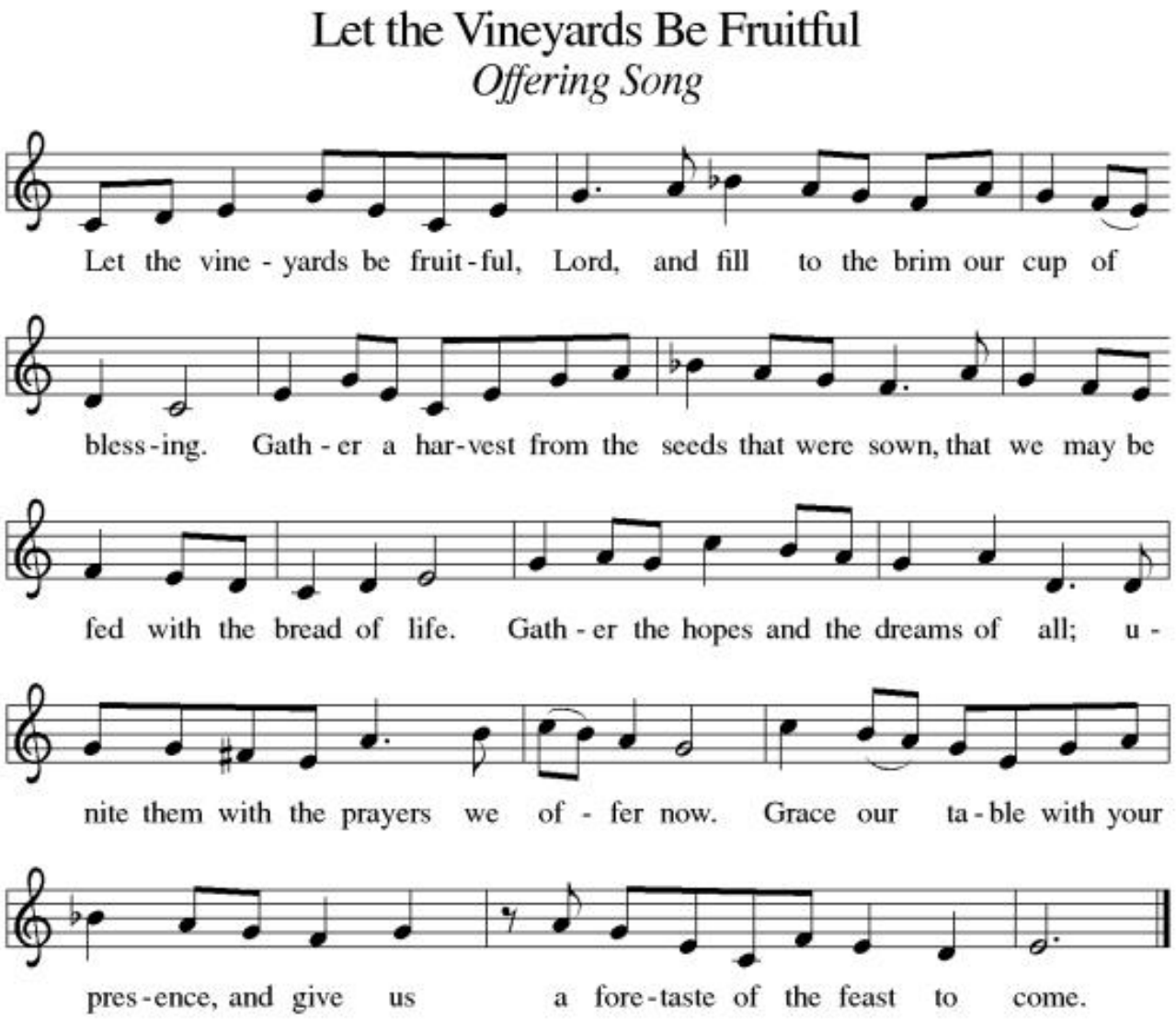


MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL* **Redeemer Choir**

OFFERING HYMN



OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.

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 Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

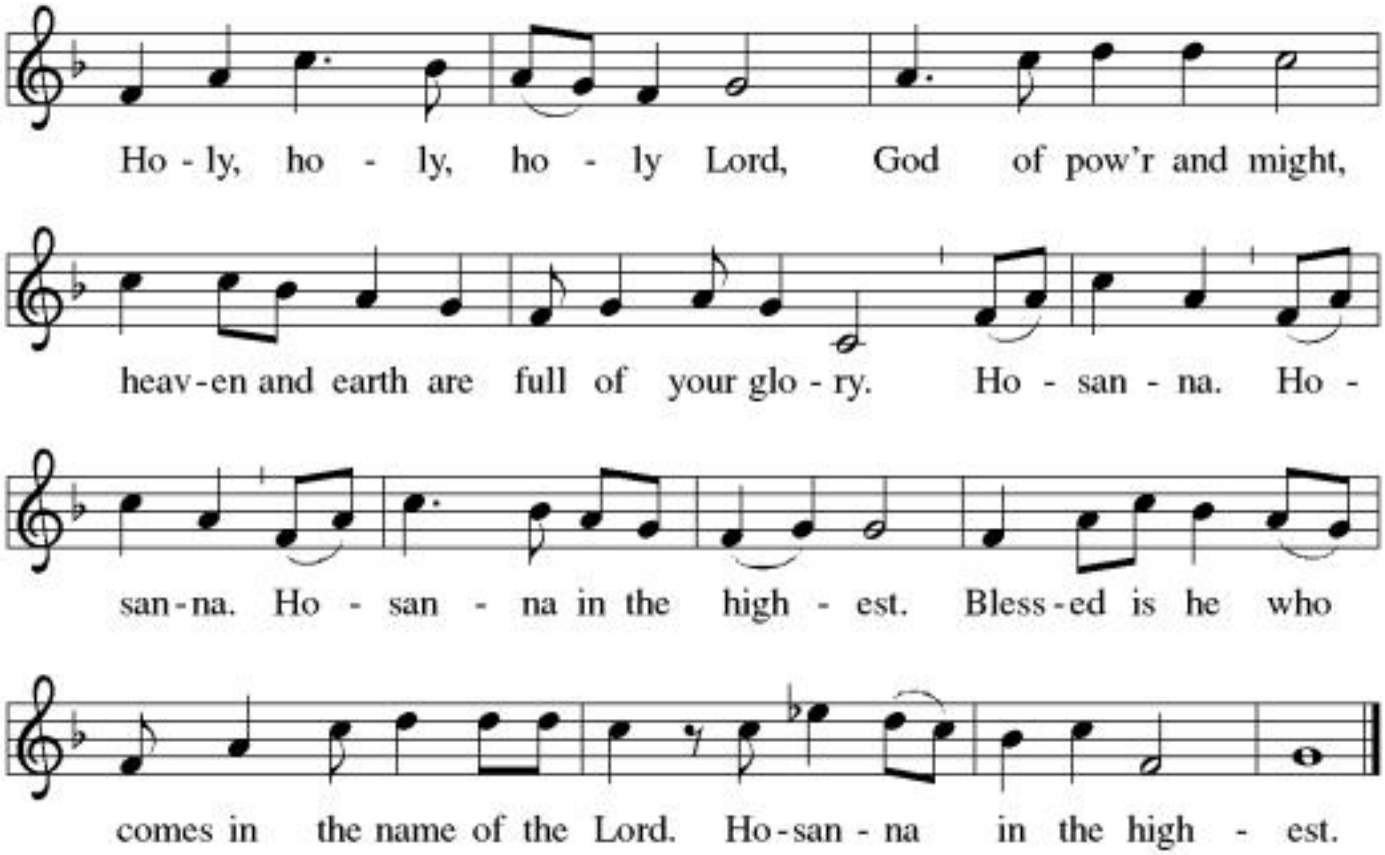
The Lord be with you.	**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.	**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	**It is right to give our thanks and praise**.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, 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;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

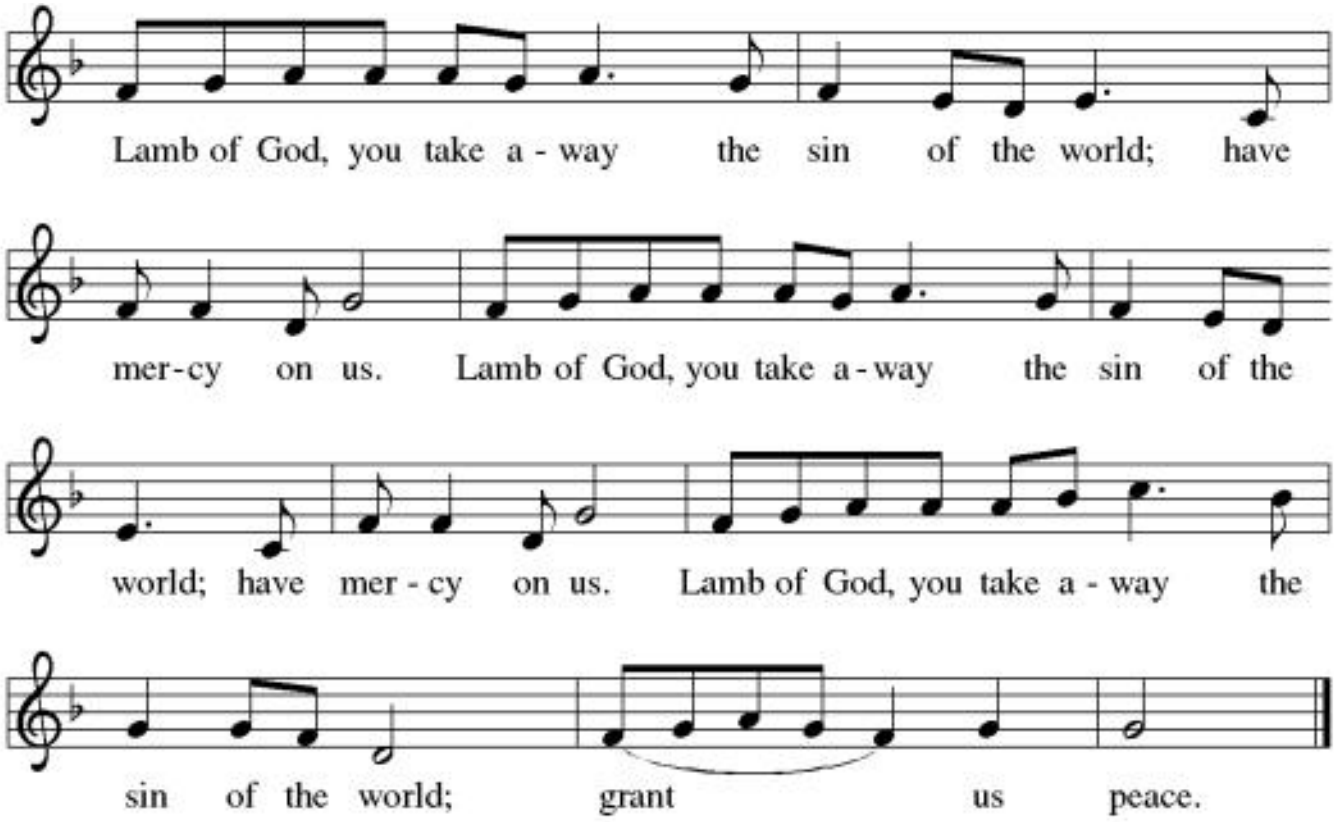
LORD'S PRAYER
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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. **Amen**.

COMMUNION HYMN: *LAMB OF GOD* **ELW p. 146**



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Congregation is encouraged to sing.

BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN	**ELW #474**
BREAD OF LIFE, OUR HOST AND MEAL	**ELW #464**
AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE	**ELW #522**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offered by Assisting Minister.

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 to the world.

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.

REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemer's Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

SENDING HYMN *O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST* **ELW #632**
(printed on next page)

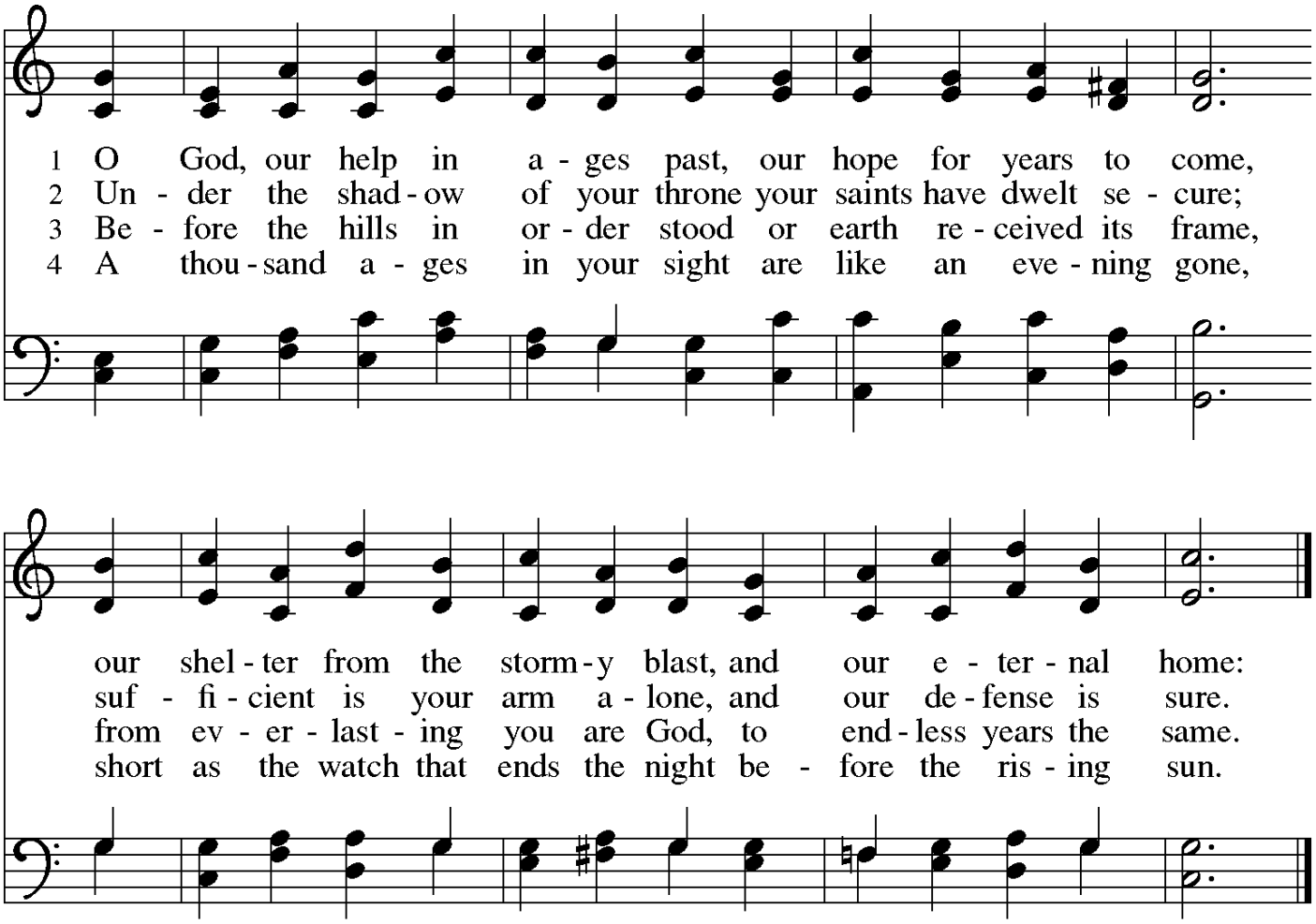
DISMISSAL
Offered by Assisting Minister.

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**



O God, Our Help in Ages Past



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we 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

Serving Today

Ushers:	Gordon Johnson and Brad Van Putten
Greeters:	Aaron Cornwell and Tom Lewis
Assisting Minister:	Lily Childers
Lector 1:	David Henderson
Lector 2:	Joyce Frid
Acolyte:	Logan Childers
Crucifer:	Dillon Howell
Cantor:	Jeffrey Stringer
Counters:	Jennifer Tierce and Donna Norman
Altar Guild:	Paula Ludwigson
Flowers:	Given by Janet Emore in memory of Ed Elmore
Sheepdogs:	Brian Ginsberg, Tom Lewis, Michael Miller and Devin Jackson
	Operation Christmas Child 3-5pm
	Brian Ginsberg and Michael Miller
Nursery:	Jennifer Tierce and Tyndall Stringer

Serving Next Week – November 22, 2026

Ushers:	Wade Tate and Tom Stires
Greeters:	Phil and Debbie Rhoads
Assisting Minister:	Al Ludwigson
Lector 1:	Kyle Henderson
Lector 2:	Nancy Stires
Acolyte:	Colin Felicia
Crucifer:	Anna Smith
Cantor:	Nancy Stires
Counters:	Jennifer Tierce and Donna Norman
Altar Guild:	Marilyn Barr
Flowers:	Given by Missy Logan and Donna Norman in memory of Doug Logan and Jeff Norman
Sheepdogs:	Sonny Lybrand, BJ King, John Fouke, Aaron Cornwell
	YY – Beto Damian
	LCY – Devin Jackson and JJ Johnson
Nursery:	Jenny Wiggers and Hannah Hester

NOTES