Order of Worship

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
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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.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *St. Anne* arr. H. Alexander Matthews

***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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
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.

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* ELW 858



***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.

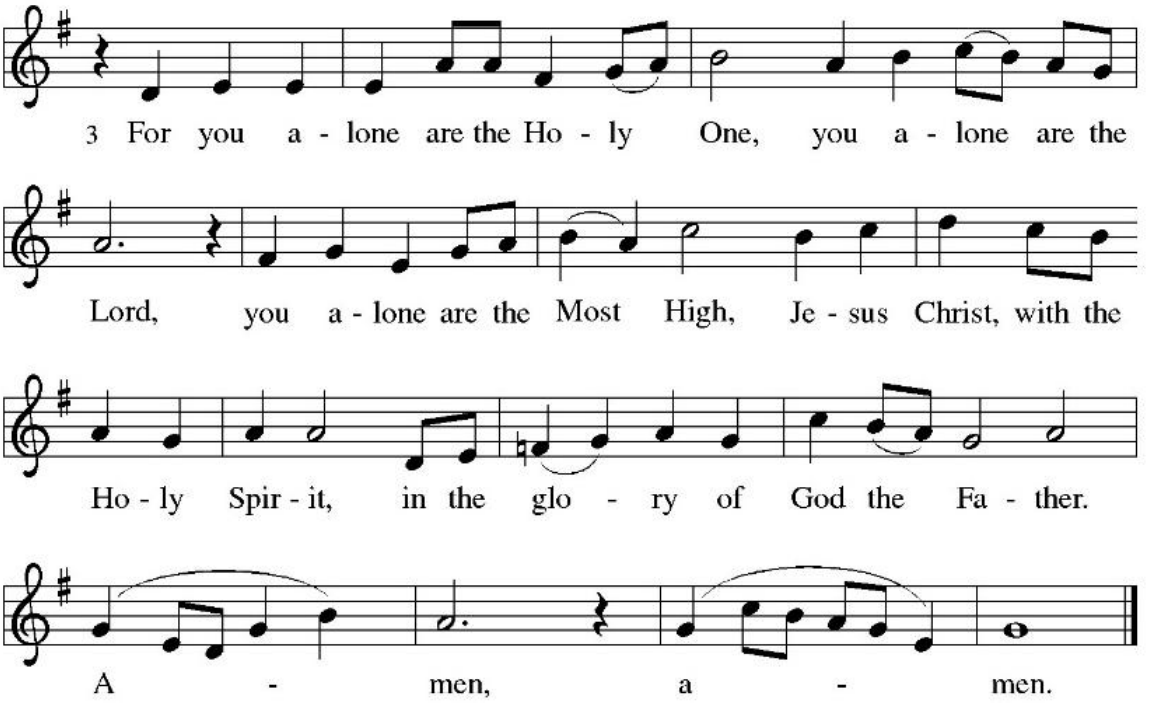
*** KYRIE**


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of
God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men.

***GLORIA**



Continued on next page



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together:

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-12 *(We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.)*

[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.
[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.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[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

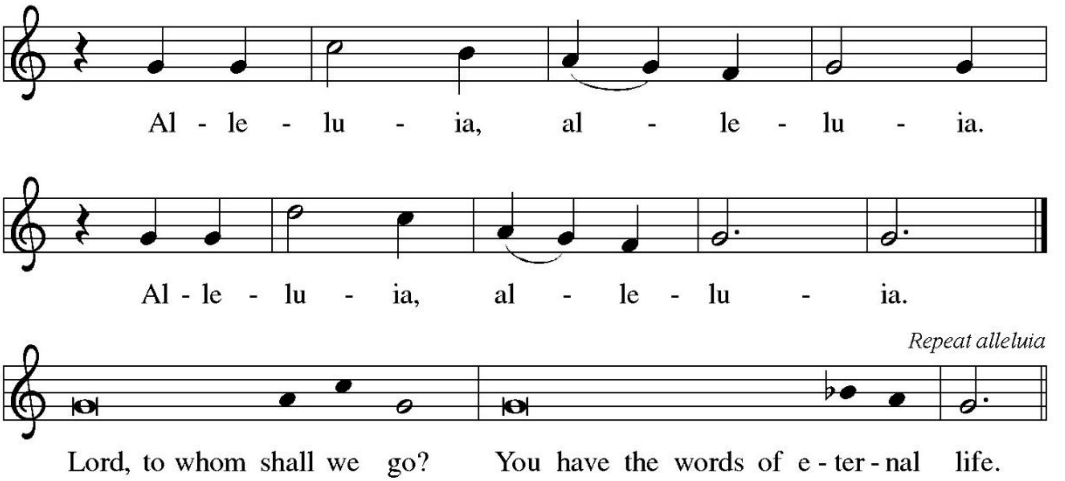
all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.
6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober,
7 for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober 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.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:** **Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to 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.

SERMON **The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz**

Silence is kept for reflection.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord of Light* ELW 688



***APOSTLE'S CREED**

We now profess the faith we share using 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**

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. Please bless Presiding Bishop Curry, Bishop Suárez, and our synod staff. 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, famine or other disasters. 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 Mary, Anne, Mabel, June, Willah, Rickey, Julie, Carol, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Linda, Jennifer, Brian, James & Gray, Wil, Amy, Al, Al, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Barbara, Monica, Avery, Art, John, Abby, Colline, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Sue, Natalie, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, and Max*. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in our congregational leadership at Grace: our council members, those who serve on committees, task forces and teams. Help us use well our time, talents, and resources for the work of your gospel.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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, including Barbara White.
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**

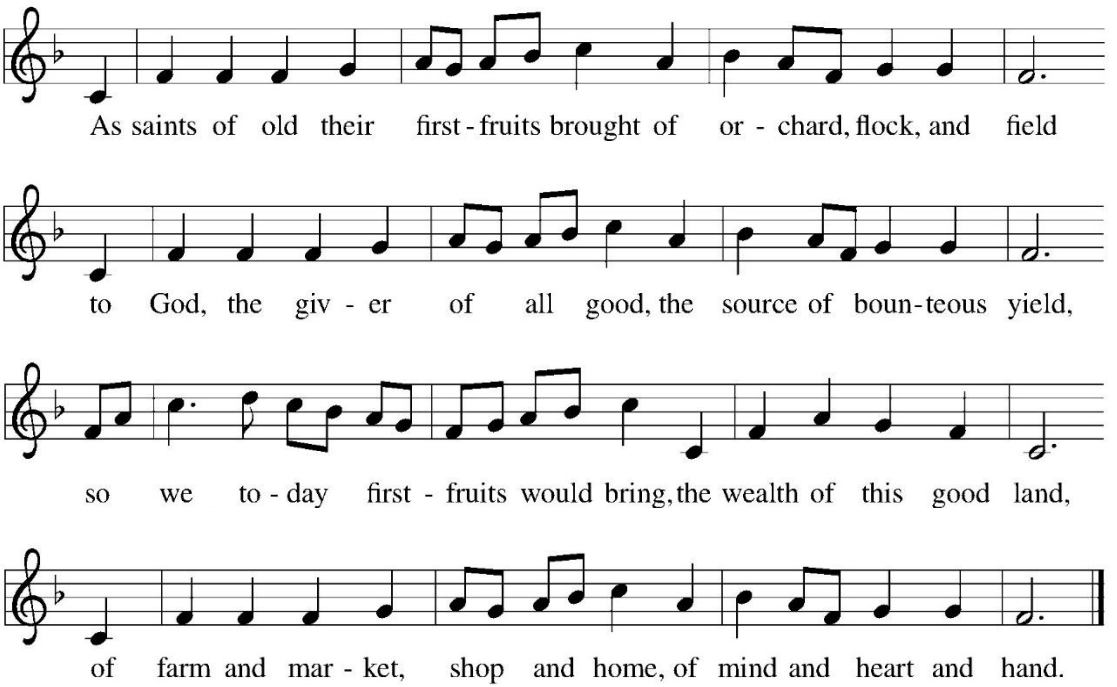
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GRATITUDE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* William Croft

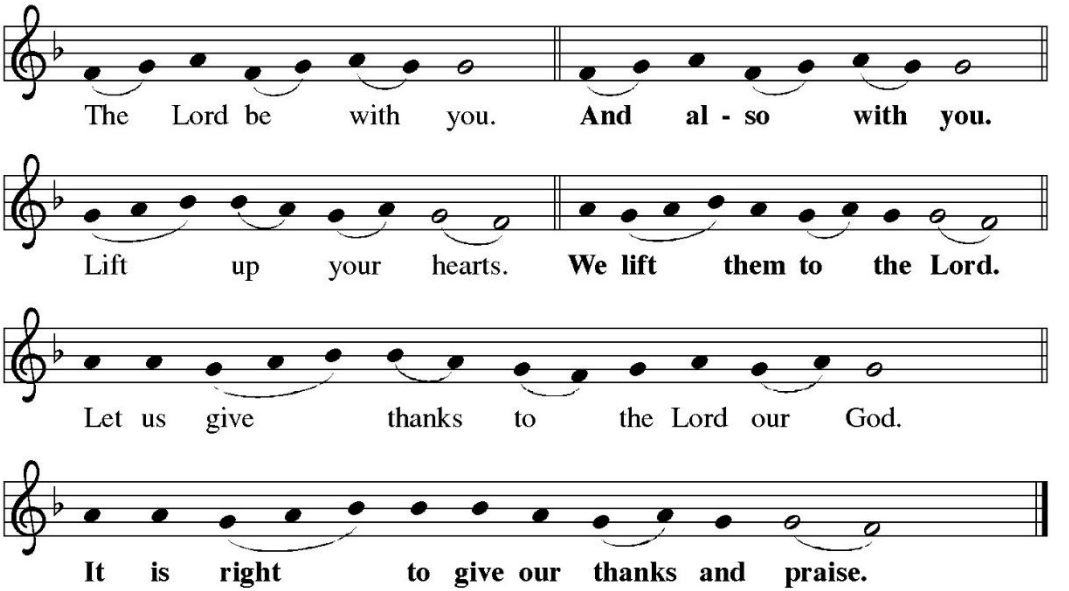
***OFFERING SONG** *As Saints of Old* ELW 695



***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



***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**



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over,
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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

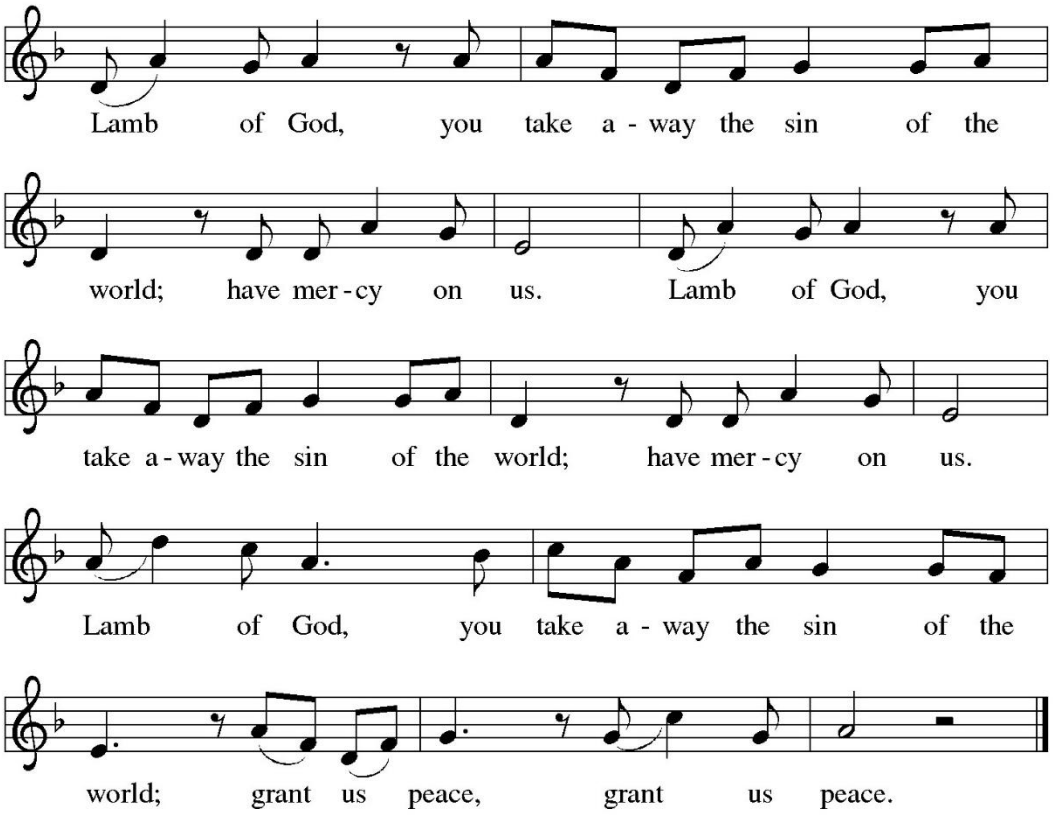
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized children of God are invited to the Lord's Table, where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We partake at the communion rail; gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and we will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Anyone may remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer, following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN(S) *We Eat the Bread of Teaching* ELW 518
Light Dawns on a Weary World ELW 726
(Next Pages)

We Eat the Bread of Teaching



Light Dawns on a Weary World



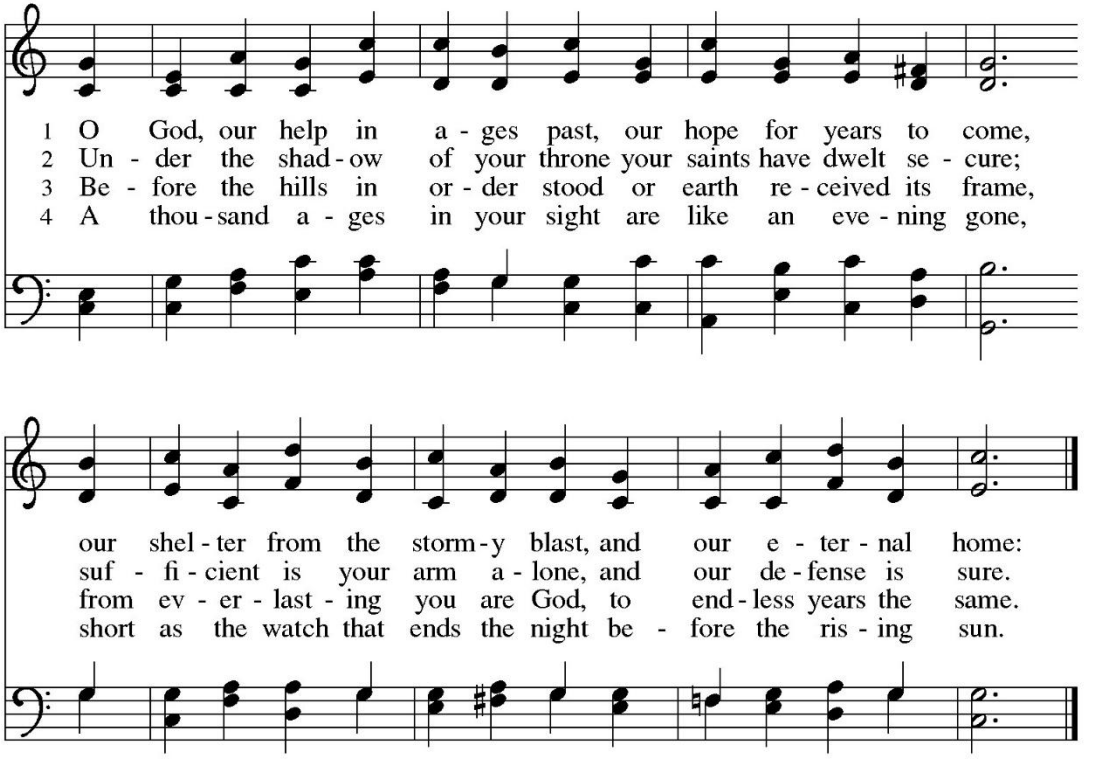
***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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 HYMN** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ELW 632



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!

***BENEDICTION**

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

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *A Litany of Praise* Franklin D. Ashdown

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