CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

+ November 22, 2026 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

WE EMBODY THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

It is possible that the biggest barrier to accepting this as our lifelong vocation is not a lack of faith but a lack of imagination.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, we receive a parable from Jesus challenging and inspiring our imaginations to grasp our whole vocation that is celebrated in baptism: to embody Christ in every moment and to engage every part of our world as Christ's redeemed creation.

The parable of the sheep and the goats has sometimes been used to instill fear of God's judgment. However, it is possible that Jesus' point here is to urge his disciples to share God's generous saving grace with all. Jesus' parables consistently offer a simple setting and story, but behind them lie a world of rich meaning that takes a lifetime to unpack. For this reason, Jesus' parables are important texts for the postmodern church, which is hungry for story, for connection, and for meaning for our faithful lifelong questions.

With shepherding texts from Ezekiel and the Psalms as well as Ephesians, an epistle written to build faith, we have a constellation of texts that make the shape of God's intimate—even incarnational—love of creation. The parable even suggests that being merely intentional about ministry in the name of Jesus is not the point. After all, both "sheep" and "goats" groups are equally shocked at the news that Jesus was present in those relationships involving thirst, imprisonment, and so forth. Instead, Jesus seems to invite us to wonder what's at the deepest foundation of our presence and purpose—and perhaps even walk away faithfully bewildered at the possibilities of God's kingdom being practiced on earth as it is in heaven.

What if we really do embody the presence of Christ?

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.

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US this Christ The King Sunday. 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.

ON THIS FINAL SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR OUR GOSPEL IS JESUS' GREAT STORY OF JUDGMENT. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

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 *CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS* **ELW #855**

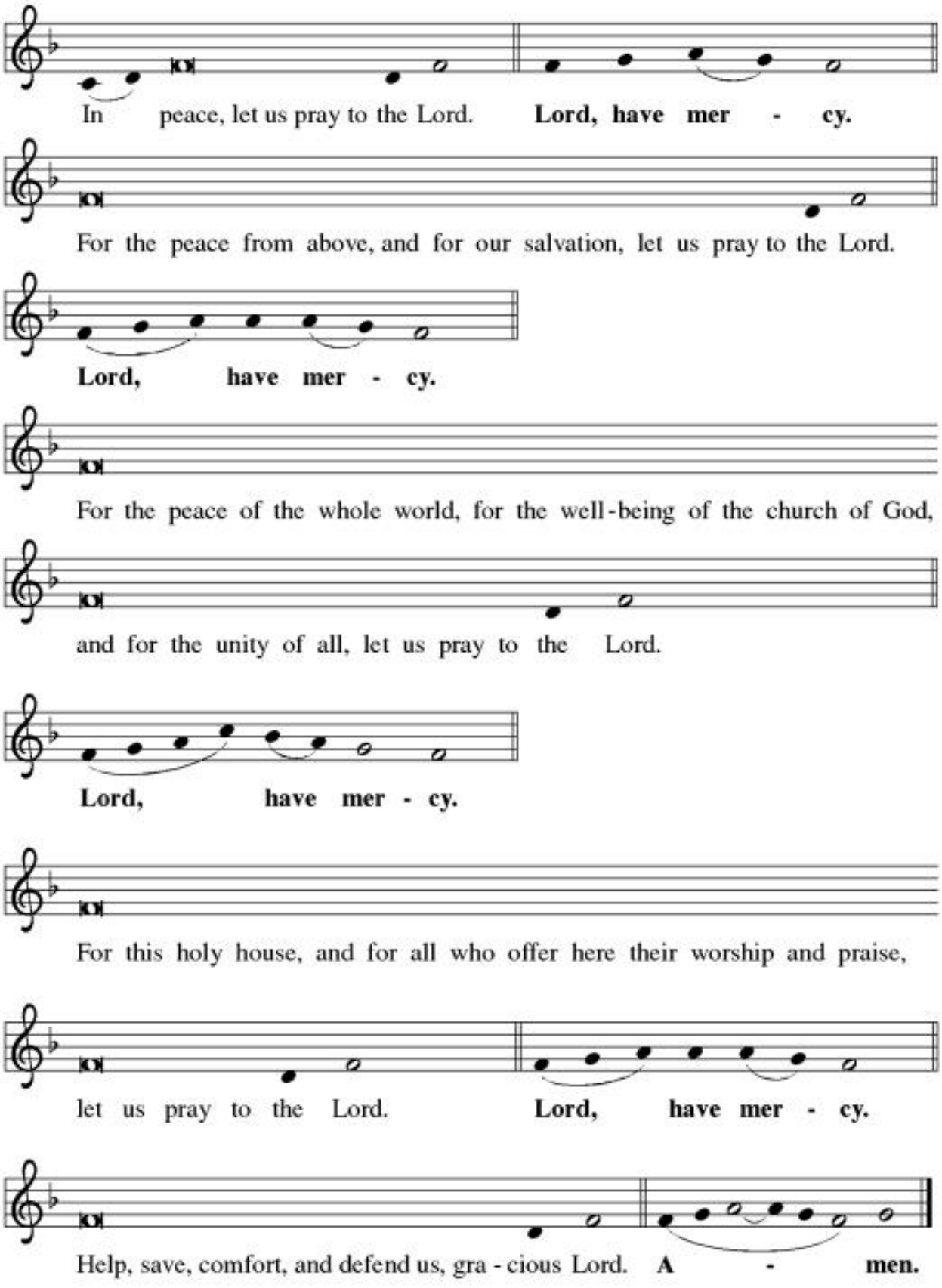


Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON **Pastor Elise Stringer**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people. (not read aloud)

A reading from Ezekiel Chapter 34:

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them
out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will
sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been
scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples
and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed
them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of
the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall
be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on
rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and
I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back
the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and
the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at
all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save
my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he
shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my
servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7). (Ps. 90:12)

1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
  let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
  and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God,
  and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
  the heights of the hills are | also yours.
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
  and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
  let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
7a For the LORD | is our God,
  and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come. (not read aloud)

A reading from Ephesians Chapter 1:

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a
spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of
your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of
his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the
dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and
authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in
this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has
made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of
him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 142**



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

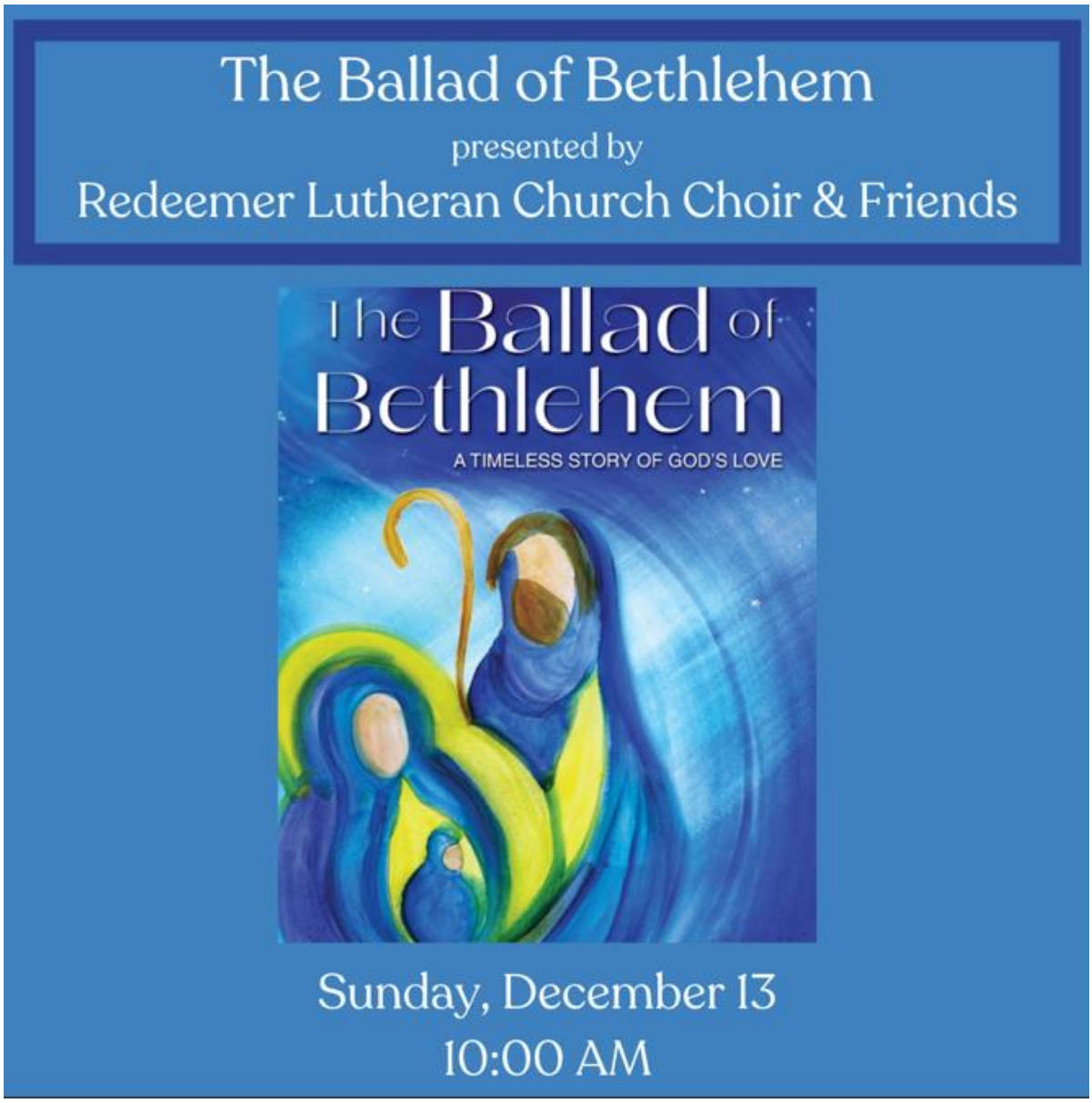
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you
did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous
into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON **Pastor Elise Stringer**

HYMN OF THE DAY *O CHRIST, WHAT CAN IT MEAN FOR US* **ELW #431**
(printed on next page)



O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us



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.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need especially those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.



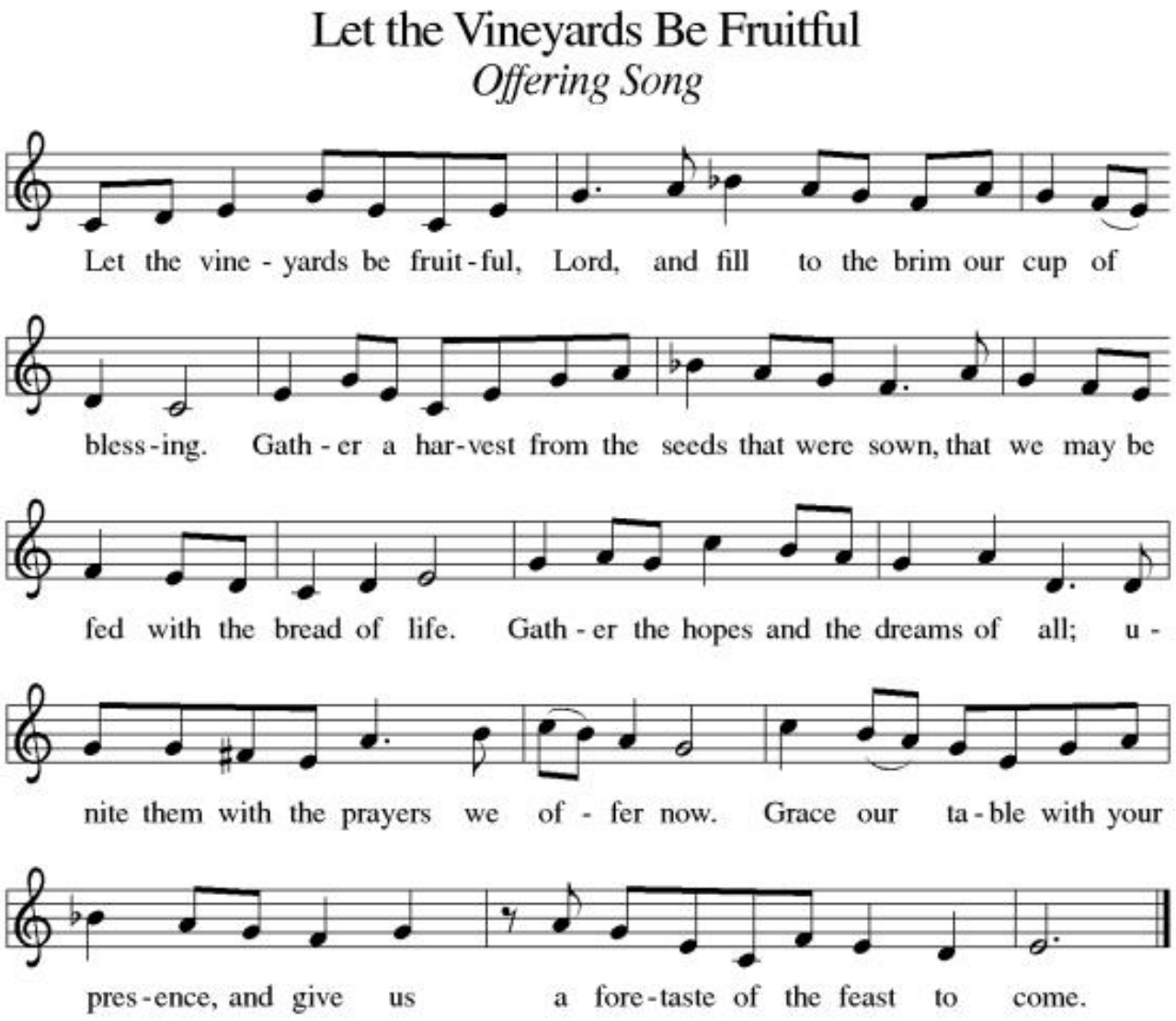
A big thank you to everyone who helped us pack 150 boxes for Operation Christmas Child!

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *THE ROSE (Christian version)* **Sarah Owens**

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.**

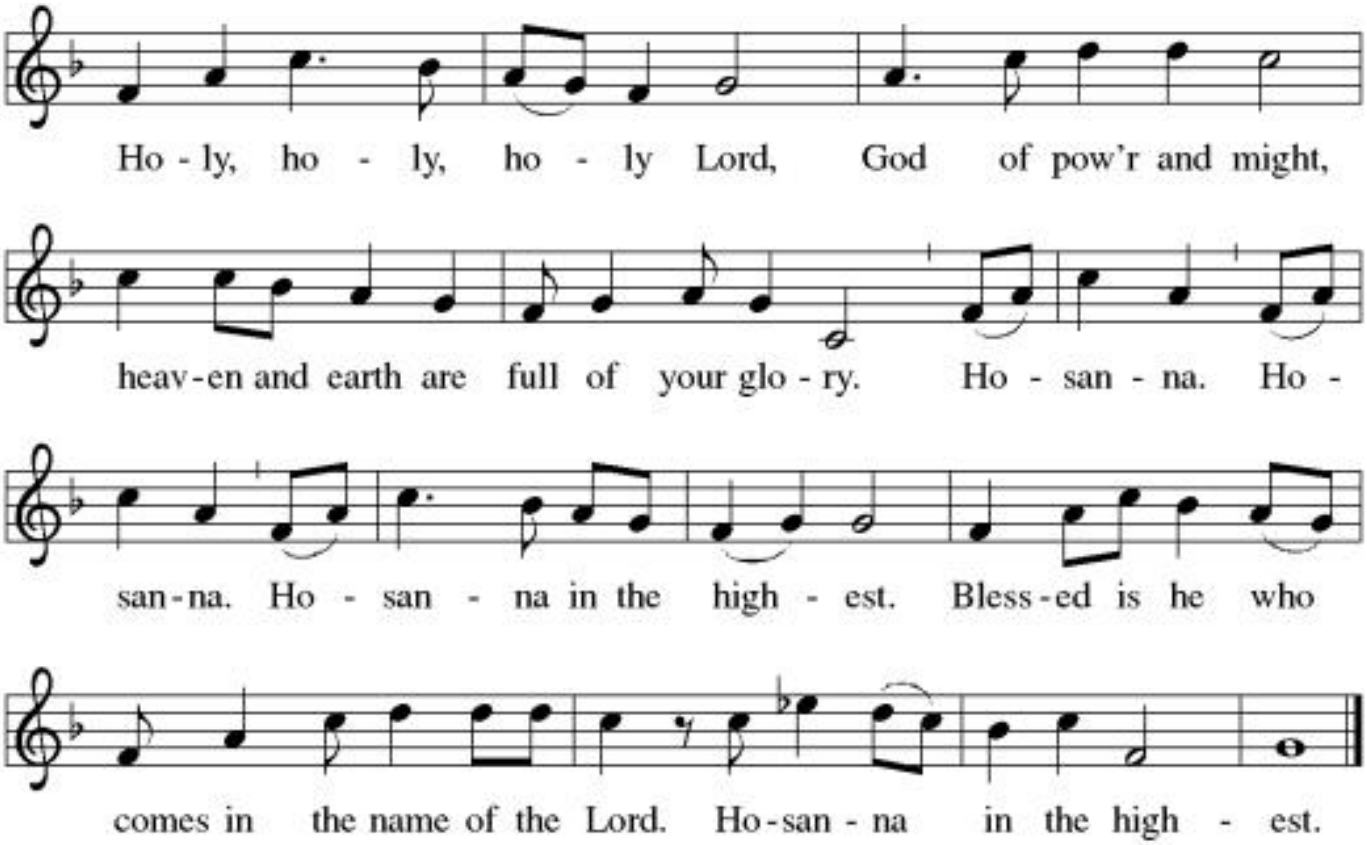
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**.

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

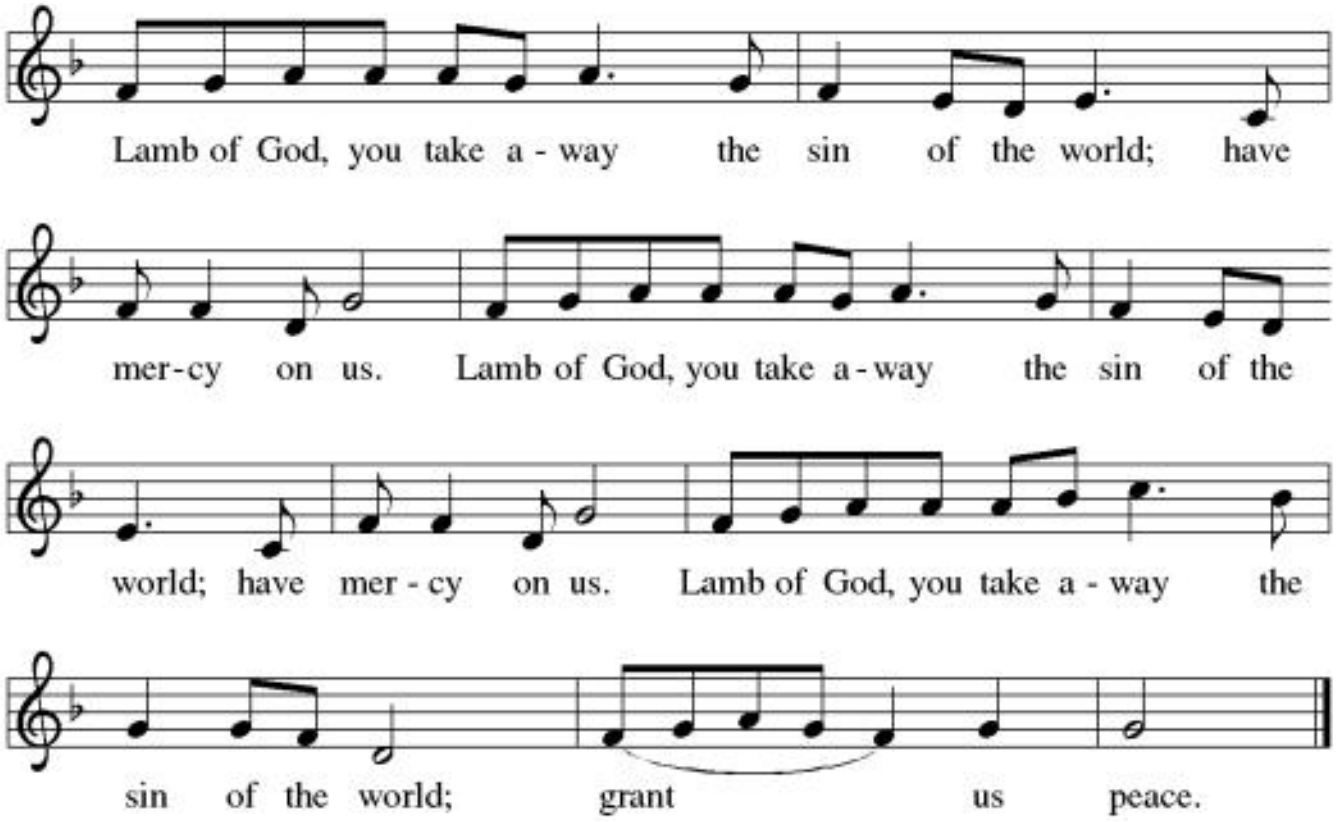
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION	**ELW #679**
MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE	**ELW #759**
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 *ALL HAIL THEPOWER OF JESUS' NAME!* **ELW #634**
(printed on next page)

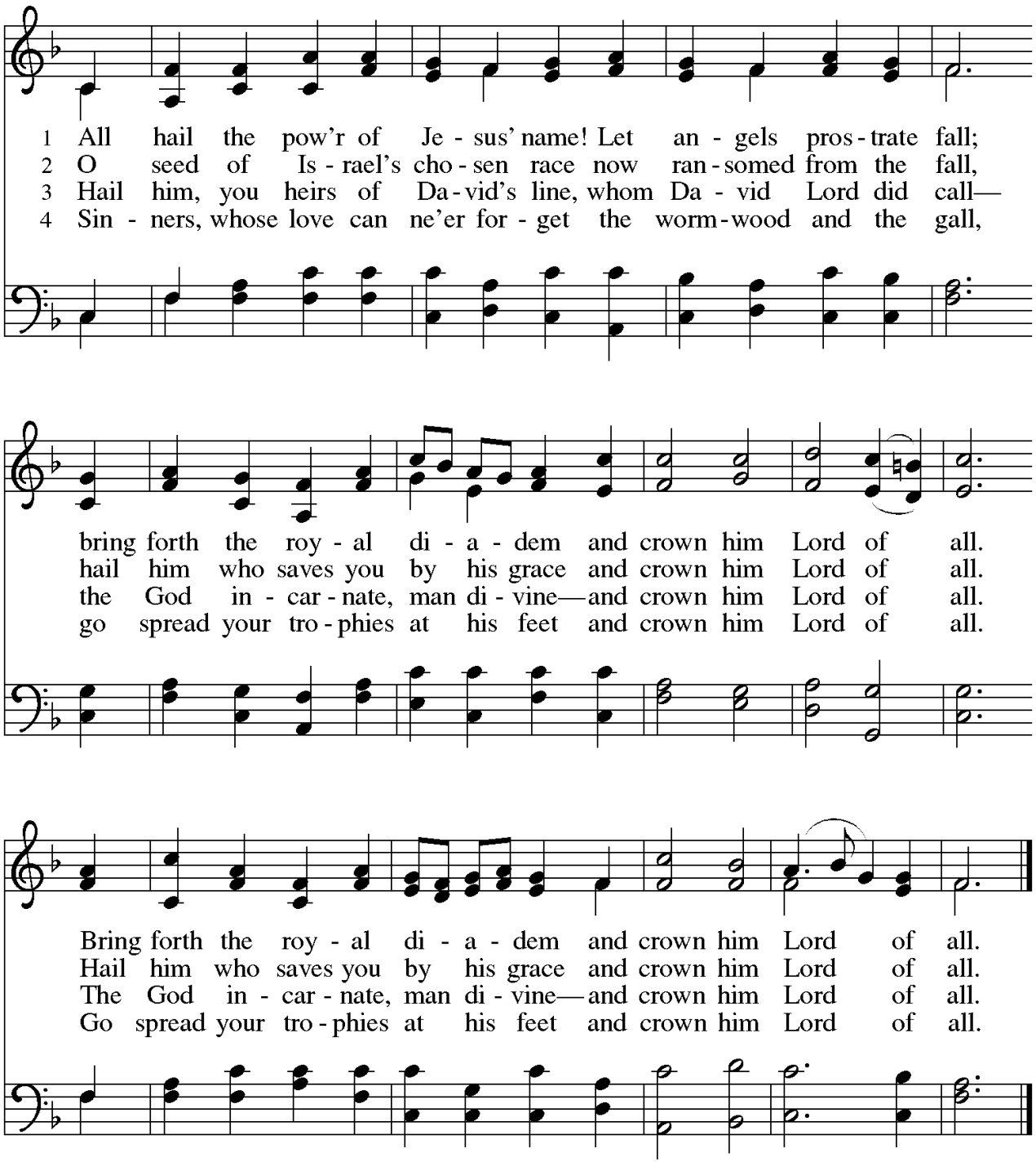
DISMISSAL
Offered by Assisting Minister.

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

POSTLUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**



All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

Serving Today

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

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
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NOTES