Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



Lectionary 33
Sunday, 9:30am, November 15, 2026
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

Rt. 25A and Sunken Meadow Road
Fort Salonga, New York 11768
(631) 269-6454

The People of God, Ministers
The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor
The Reverend Toby Tobias, Pastoral Associate
Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon
Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon
Mr. Brian Forberg, Deacon
Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music
Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist
Dcn. Brian Forberg, Ms. Doris Meyer, Mr. Jim Meyer, Ms. Karen Garone, Ms. Kathy Smith, Assisting
Ms. Sandra Luethi, Ms. Holly Williams, Ms. Janet Schoepflin, Readers
Mr. Brian Ansink, Usher
Ms. Jean Oblak, Altar Guild
Ms. Brinleigh Ingwersen, Video Production
Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director

Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to Worship!
Lectionary 33
November 15, 2026
9:30am
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

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.

PRELUDE ***"Nun Freut Euch, Lieben Christen, G'mein"*** J.S. Bach

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GATHERING – The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand as you are able

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.

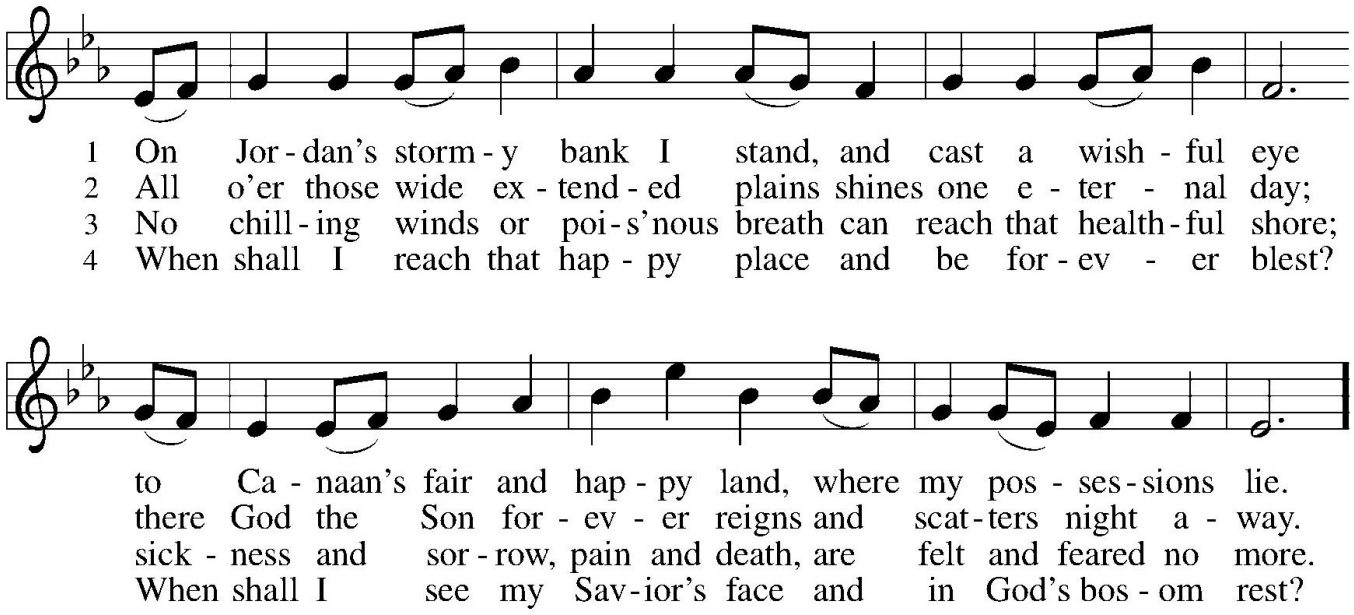
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

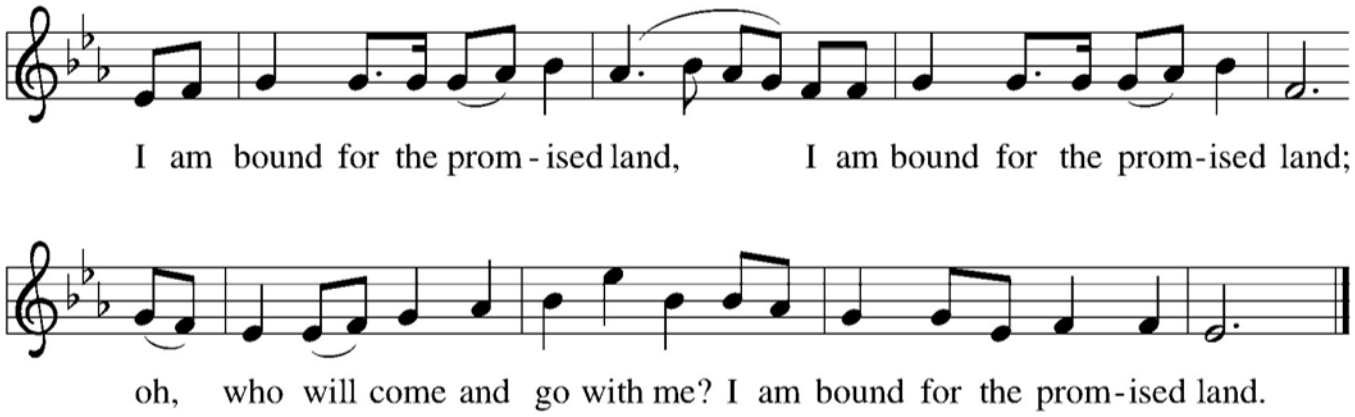
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 437 *"On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand"*





Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727–1795
Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836–1899

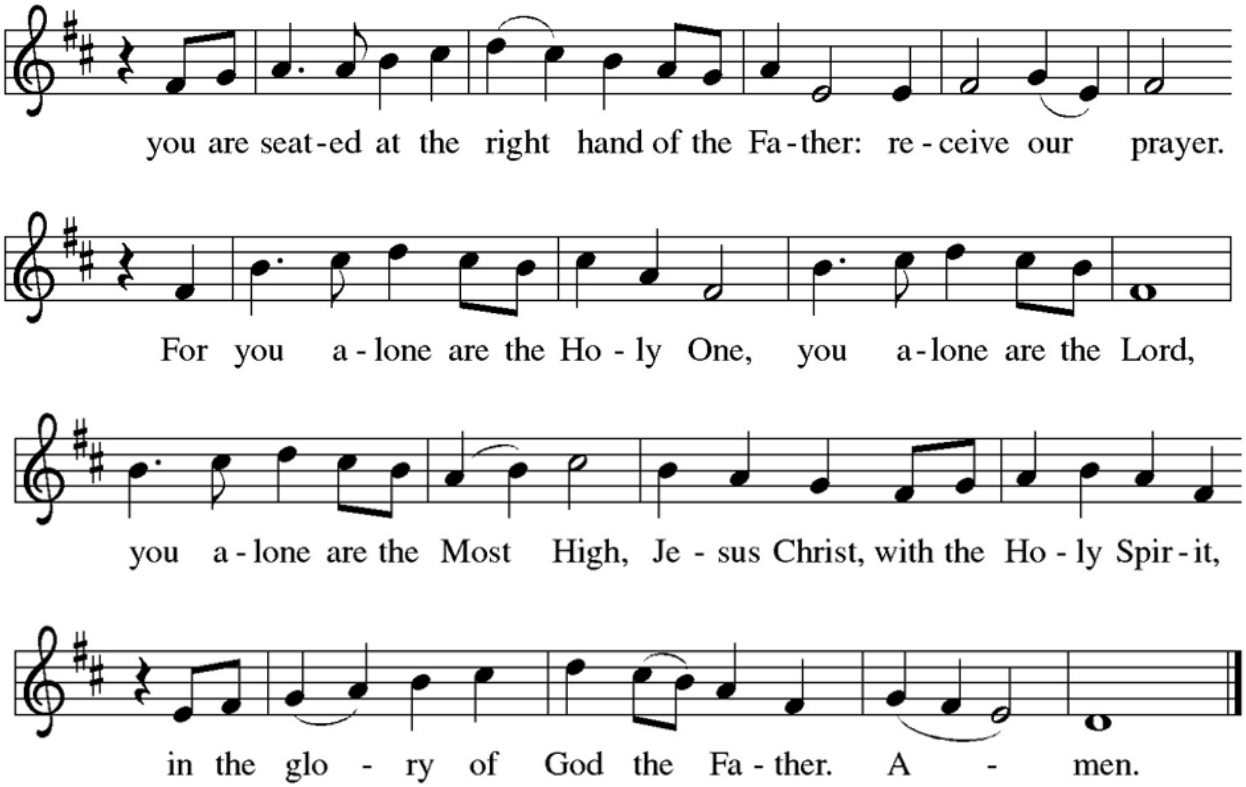
GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WORD – God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please sit

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.

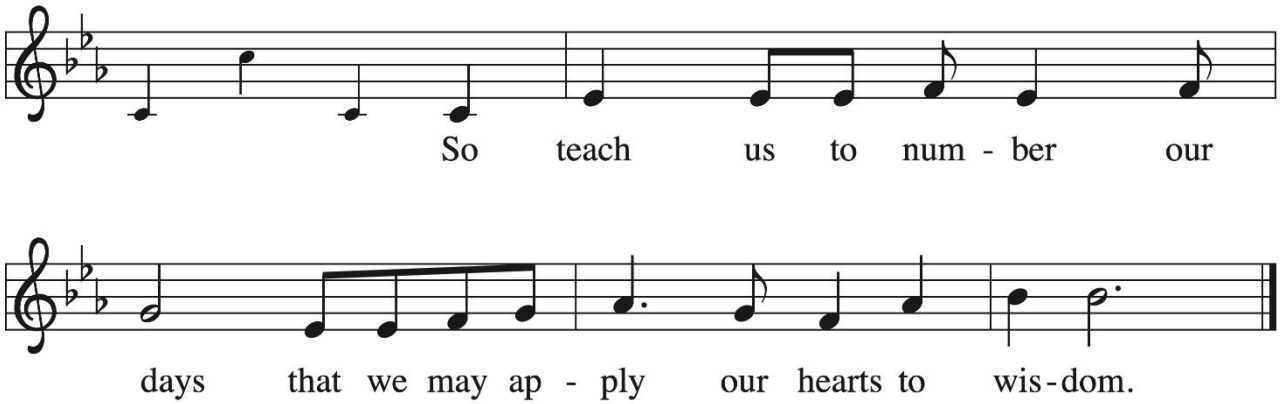
A Reading from Zephaniah

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.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. **Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12
(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)
Response



Psalm 90:12
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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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; **R**
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. **R**

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.

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

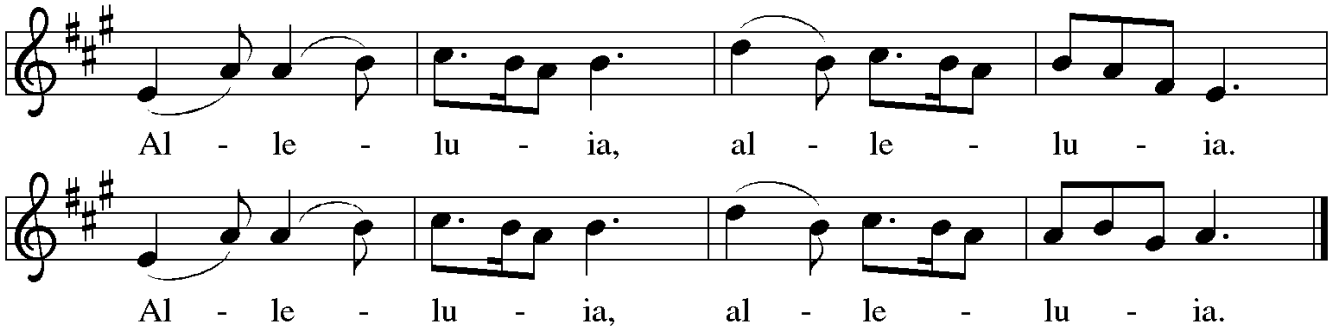
has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. **Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

(Cantor sings proper verse. All sing Alleluia before and after verse.)



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

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 Matthew

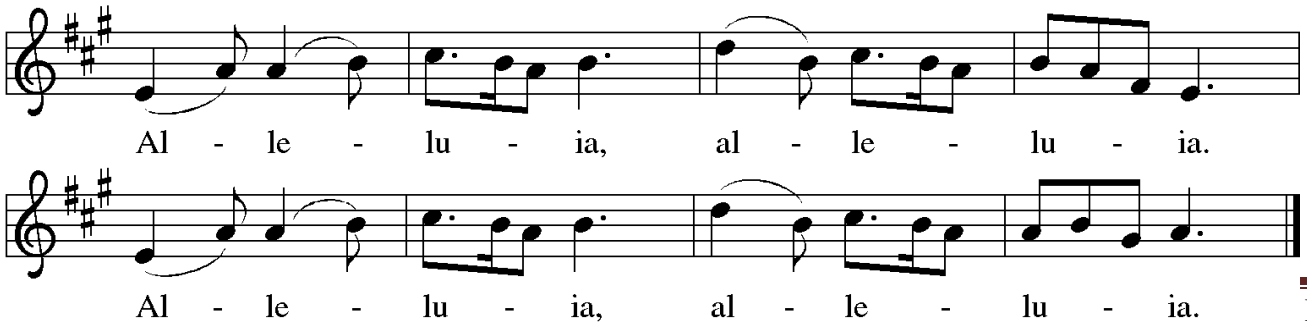
Glory to You, O Lord

[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.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL



Please sit

SERMON **Pr. Schoepflin**

Please stand as you are able

HYMN WOV 778 ***"O Christ the Same"***





Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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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 (Response: "Hear our prayer.")

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding "hear our prayer."

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, 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. 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 list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **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.**

SHARING OF PEACE

Please sit

WELCOME OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM ***"Ubi Caritas"*** Victor Johnson

OFFERING **NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?**
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE

Please stand as you are able

OFFERING HYMN 465 ***"As the Grains of Wheat"***

Refrain
As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;

so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

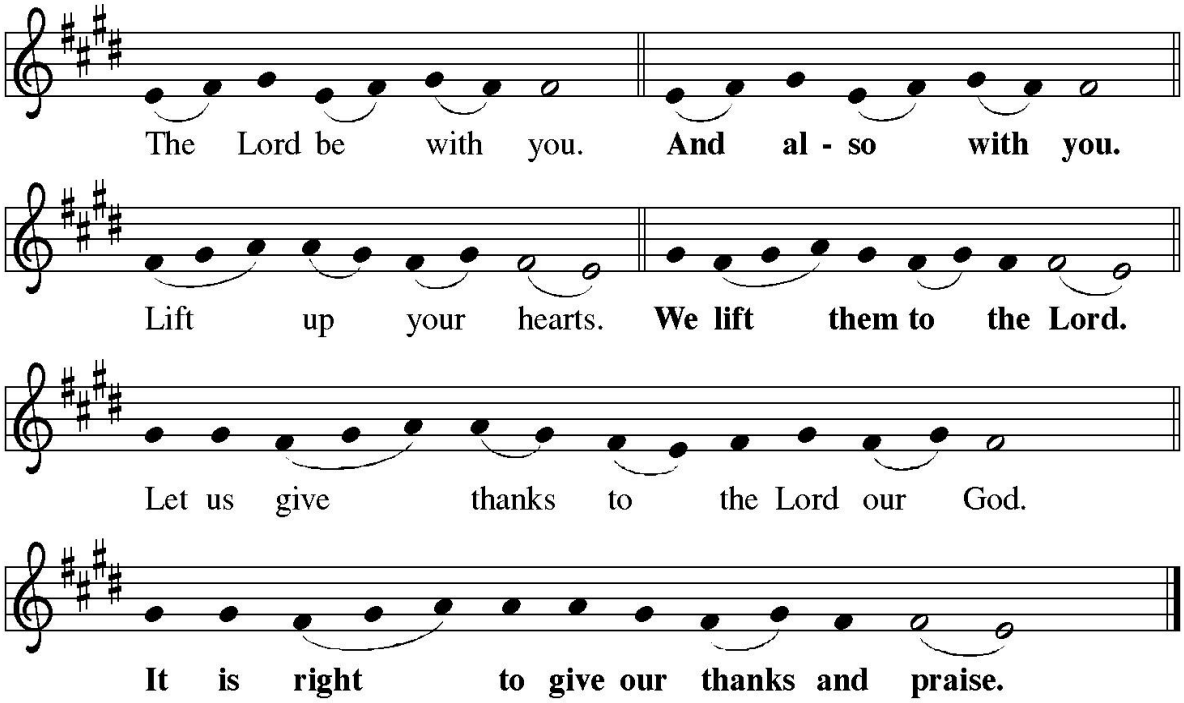
As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

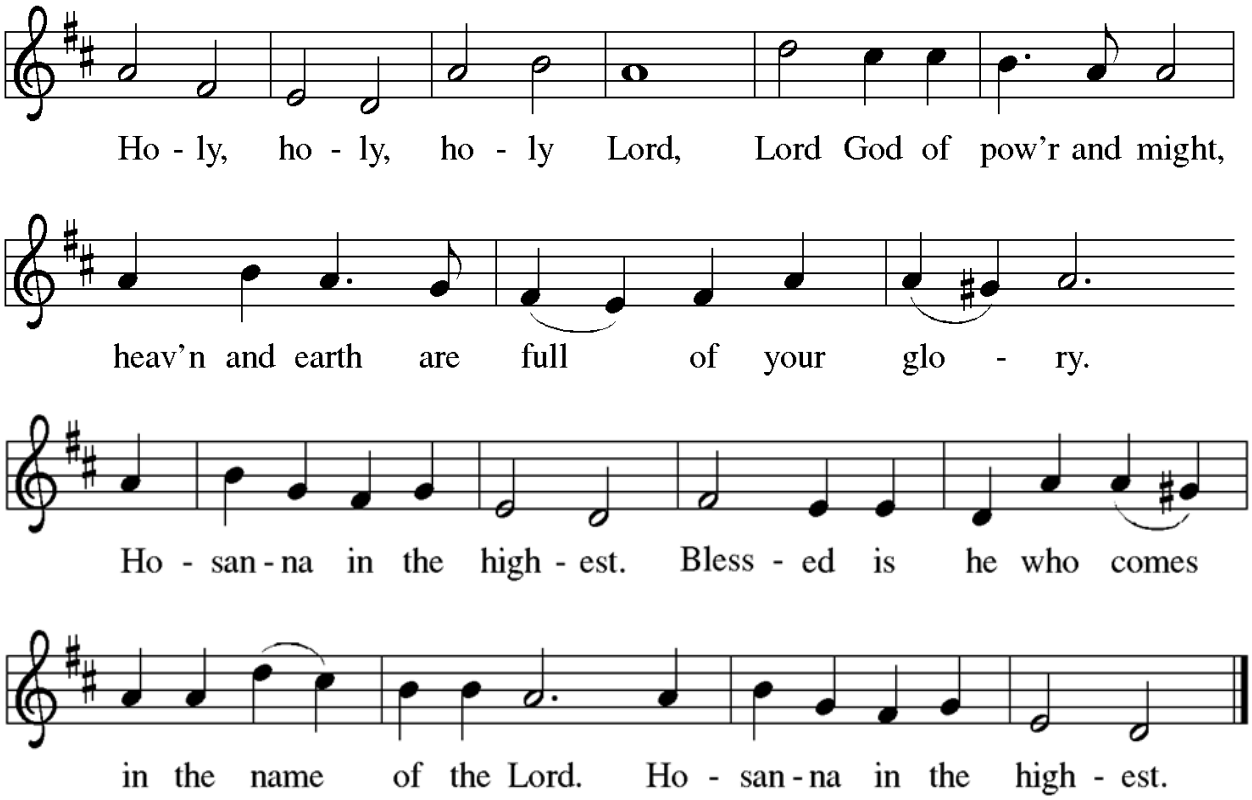
OFFERING PRAYER

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



P: 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:



THANKSGIVING AT 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 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.

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.**

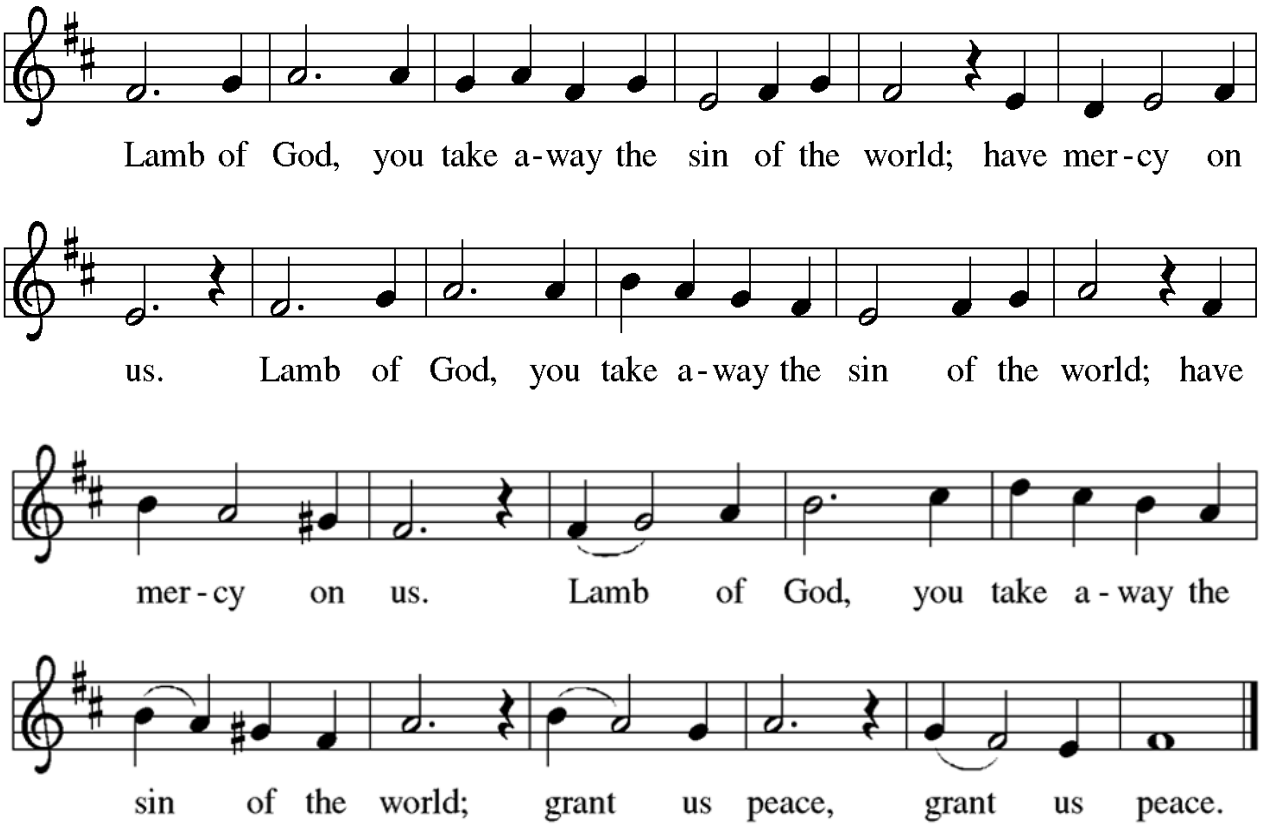
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AGNUS DEI



Please sit

THE DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that along with the bread and wine we receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to the Lord's table to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament will be distributed in one or two continuous lines at the main aisle. The bread is received in the hand and the communicant then proceeds to a gold chalice for intinction or to a crystal chalice to drink from the common cup, or if so desired, the communicant may receive only the bread. Please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten free wafer. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

COMMUNION HYMN 727 *"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth "*

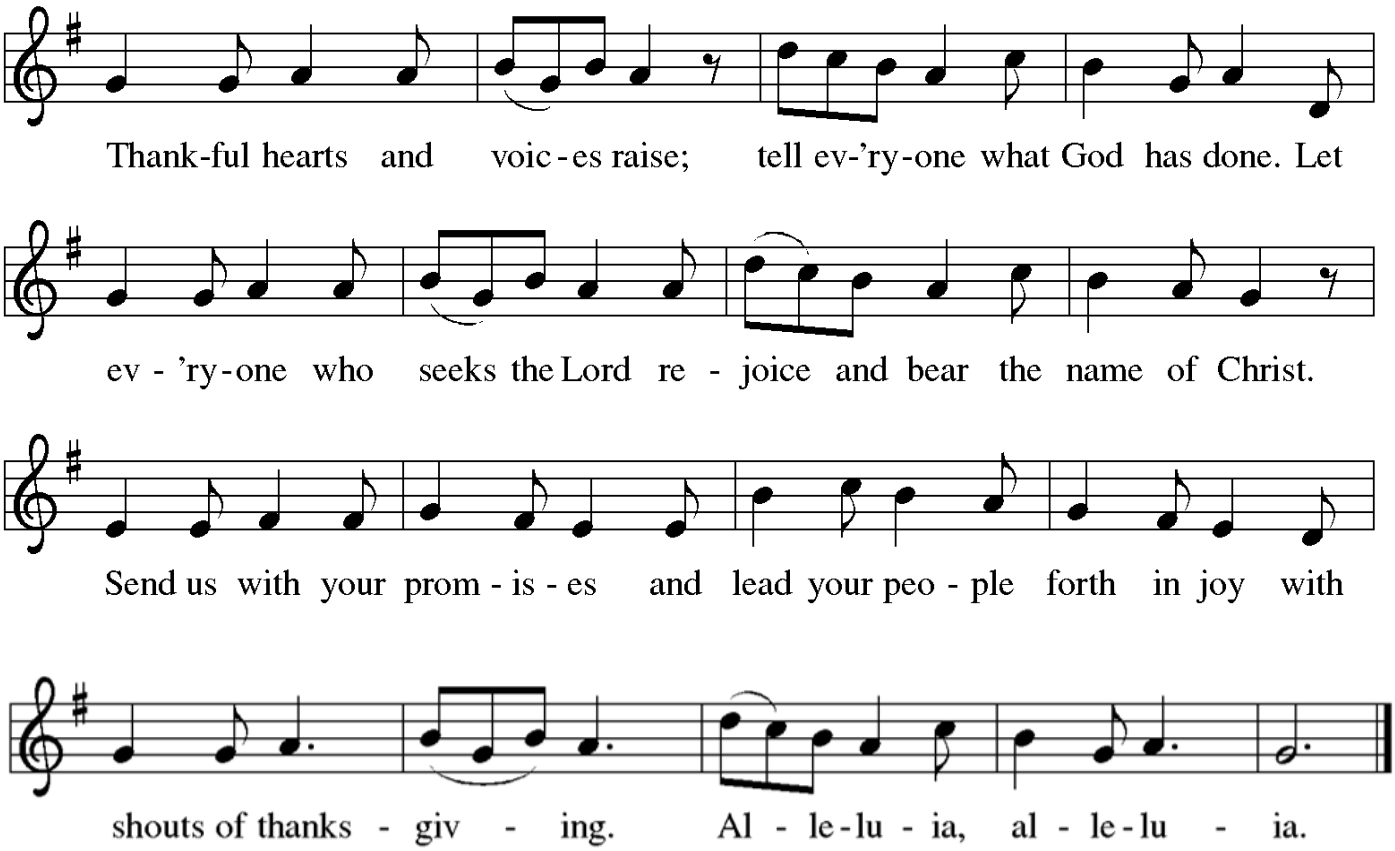


Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882–1969, alt.
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION HYMN 207 *"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 632 *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

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

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DISMISSAL

Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve.
All are welcome!
Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ***"Divertissment"*** Gordon Young

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IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING ARE: Alie, Rakel Anderson, Annette, Jean B., F. Bauer, Margaret Belt, Allison Bender, Michael Bender, Rich Bender, Betsey Berry, Anthony Bonello, Betty Bose, Brenda, Bobby Burns, Connor Burke, Annabelle Carini, John Carini, Fran Casola, Claire, Anthony Ceriello, Lindsey Ann Clark, Christel Clausen, Nancy Couture, Mitch Crowley, Vania Davis, Avery Doino, Mary Donnelly, Jeff Eisner, Elaine, Wayne Ericksen, Paul Farber, Felix, Melinda Geis, Ella Giana, Sal Giannotta, Jim Gill, Frank Gonzalez, Kristen Bruce-Gonzalez, Gregory, Thomas H., Ed and June Heidelberger, Jennifer Hoffman, Josephine Hoffman, Jennifer Howard, Dylan Israelian, Joanne, Joe, Cliff Johnson, Jean Johnson, Kathy, Brian Kennedy, Kristen Kern, Lia Krautmanis, Erik Krisch, Melissa L., Terry Lago, Lauren, Douglas Lozel, Marissa Luethi, Gene Maccarone, Laurie Mandel, Mark, Mason, Katie McGowan, Mel, Melissa, Stancy Mentnech, Herb Menzel, Doris Meyer, Debra Michels, Carol Minton, Terry Moore, Jennifer Morrell, Debra Morsello, The Murphy Family, Steven N., Matthew Naeher, Kim Nallan, Lindi Nubel, Jane O'Brien, Lucille Ochal, Pamela, Rose P., Patrick, Paul, Richard Pecchio, Dorothy Philcox, Keith Philcox, Nicholas Pohlmann, Ned Price, Jessica Pucci, Ron Pucci, Joseph, Joan and Matt Reilly, Matt Reilly's of Albany, Grace Revere, Lynn R., Margaret Rizzo, Doris Roche, Charlotte Roessle, Jim Rogin, Nancy Rosen, Paul Rosen, Ruth, Jordan S., Sal, Claire Salem, The Seale Family, Joan Sepp, Jeff Smith, Jeffrey Starke, Stephen, Austin Stone, The Strumza Family, Suzanne Stoklosa, Annette Swanson, Gavin Tarsio, Todd, Peter T., Anna T., Julie Tiberie, Michael Wagner, Diane Wattecamps, Donna Weaver, Bill Wegener, Peter Weichner, Bill Witte, Claire Zatorski, Kathy Zieran, Erwin Zimmermann.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Courtney Burke, Paul Cassuti, John Delano, Jonathan Dixon, Walton Delano Gouldin, Eric Hank, Jr., Michael Hewson, Alycia A. Howard, Claire James, Justin MacDonald, Katie Mayer, Daniel Murray, Richard Mutari, Jake Sass, Kaitlin Stark, Bryce Michael Wheeler, Rachel Williams.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by The Hogan Family. Happy Heavenly Birthday Mom, November 19.

Daily Bible Readings for Year A (November 15 – November 22)
From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 11/15 *Lectionary 33*
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Mon 11/16 Psalm 9:1-14
Zechariah 1:7-17
Romans 2:1-11

Tues 11/17 Psalm 9:1-14
Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wed 11/18 Psalm 9:1-14
Job 16:1-21
Matthew 24:45-51

Thurs 11/19 Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Kings 22:13-23
Revelation 14:1-11

Fri 11/20 Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Chronicles 17:1-15
Revelation 22:1-9

Sat 11/21 Psalm 95:1-7a
Isaiah 44:21-28
Matthew 12:46-50

Sun 11/22 *Lectionary 34 – Christ the King*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

THE PARISH COUNCIL

If you would like contact information for the council members listed below, please call the church office at 631-269-6454.

Joanne Pitfick, President
Pr. Robert Schoepflin, Vice-President
Brian Ansink, Fellowship
Karen Garone, Finance
Joie Burkhardt, Treasurer
Karen Garone, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Waldron, Assistant Treasurer
Barbara Kaifler, Secretary
Marina Bedrossian, Youth
Paul Fick, Property
Karen Wallin, Social Ministries
Betty Bose, Music and Worship
Aubrey Minton, Christian Education
Paul Farber, Stewardship
Lauri Christiansen-Wegener, Outreach and Marketing (Evangelism)

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