Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



Christ the King/Lectionary 34
Sunday, 9:30am, November 22, 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. Kathy Pucci, Ms. Kathy Smith, Ms. Doris Meyer, Mr. Jim Meyer, Mr. Robert Cubbon, Assisting
Ms. Beverly Anderson, Ms. Sally Herzog, Ms. Betty Bose, Readers
Ms. Sydney Martinsen, Acolyte
Ms. Sally Herzog, Usher
Ms. Cyndi Nichols, Communion Bread Baker
Ms. Janice Norton, Altar Guild
Mr. Tristan Minton, Video Production
Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director

Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to Worship!
Christ the King/Lectionary 34
November 22, 2026
9:30am
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE ***"Darwall's 148"*** Healey Willan

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.

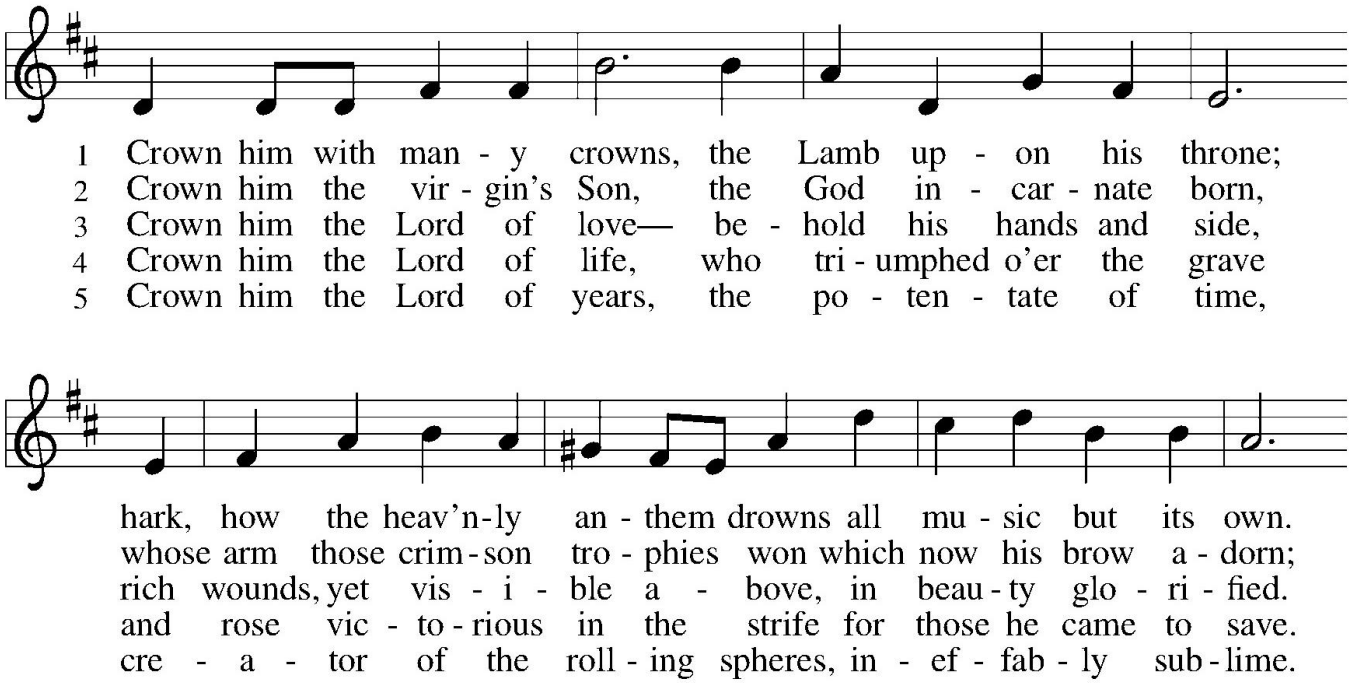
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

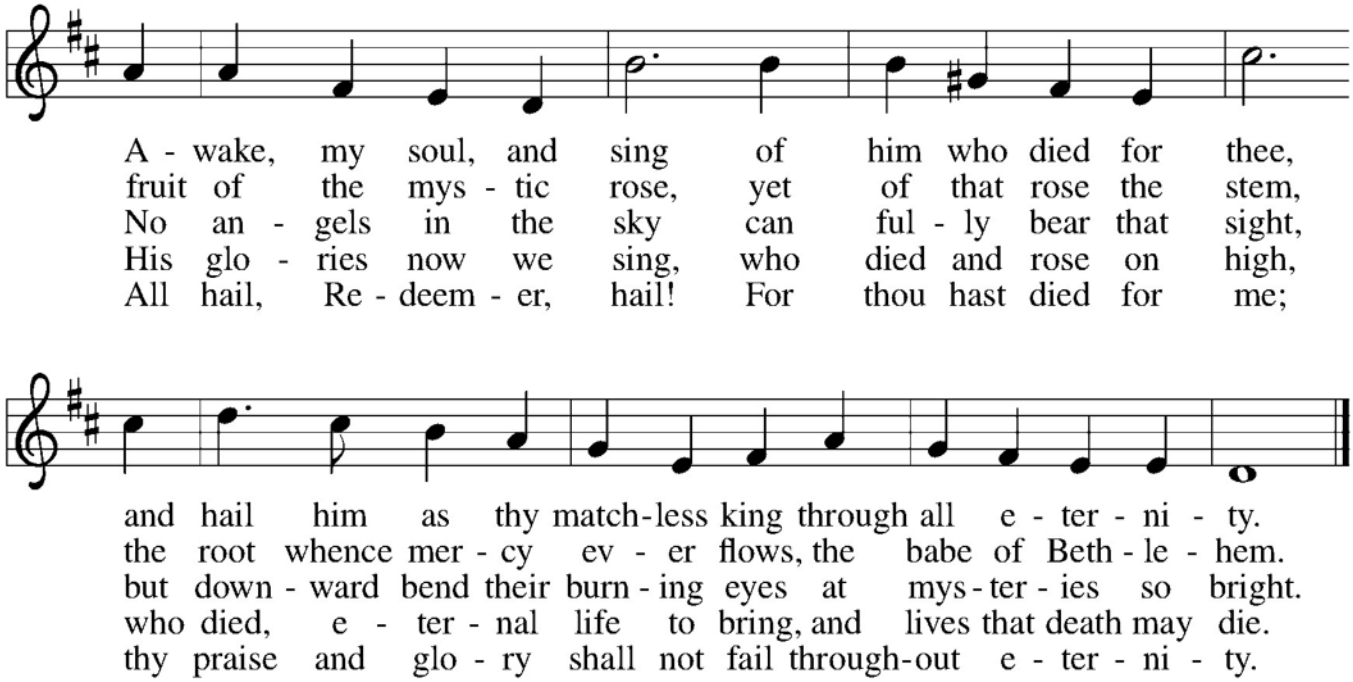
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 855 *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*





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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

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.

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

Please sit

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.

A Reading from Ezekiel

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.

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

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a
(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)
Response



Let us come before God's presence with Thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
Refrain

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours, for you made it;
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Refrain

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the lord our maker. For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of
God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Refrain

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.

A Reading from Ephesians

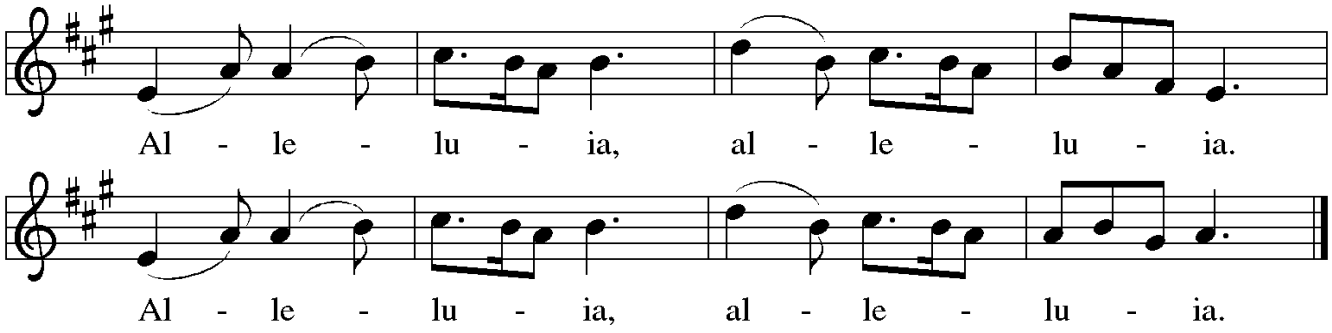
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in
my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come 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.

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 25:31-46

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 Matthew

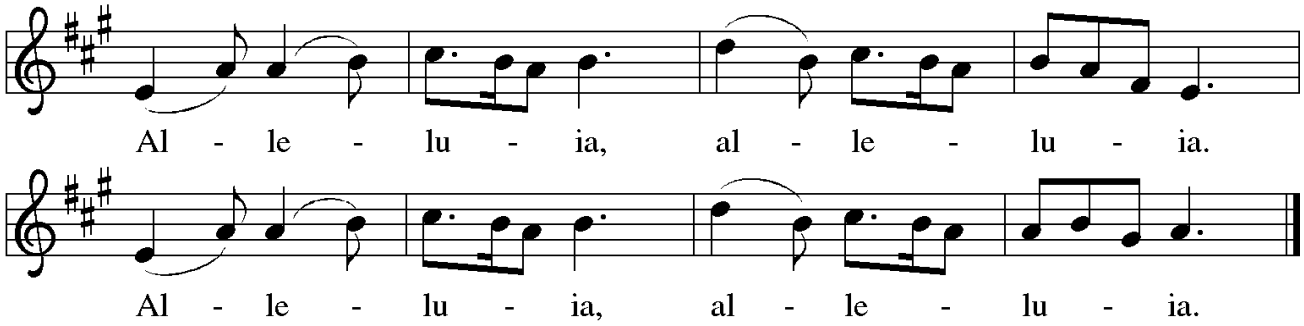
Glory to You, O Lord

[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.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL



SERMON — Pr. Schoepflin

Please stand as you are able

HYMN 434 — *"Jesus Shall Reign"*



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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.

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 list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts (*pause for names*). 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.**

SHARING OF PEACE

Please sit

ANTHEM ***"Crown Him With Many Crowns"*** Anna Laura Page
Resounding Praise Bell Choir

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;

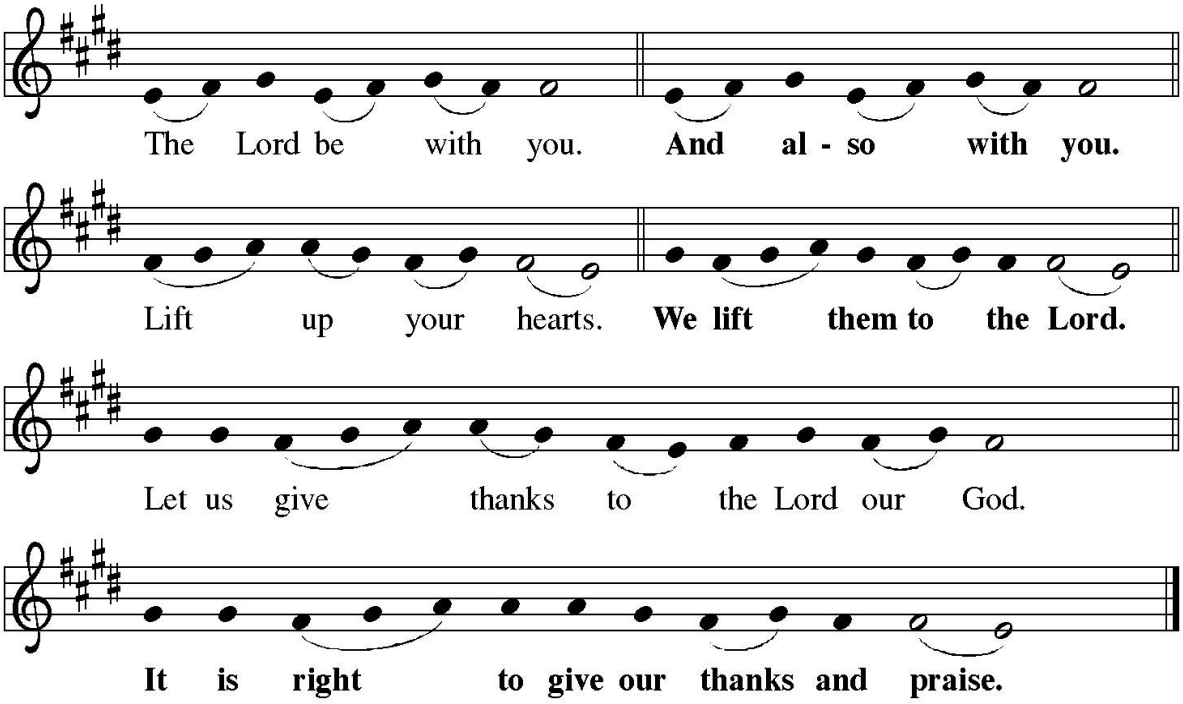
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

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

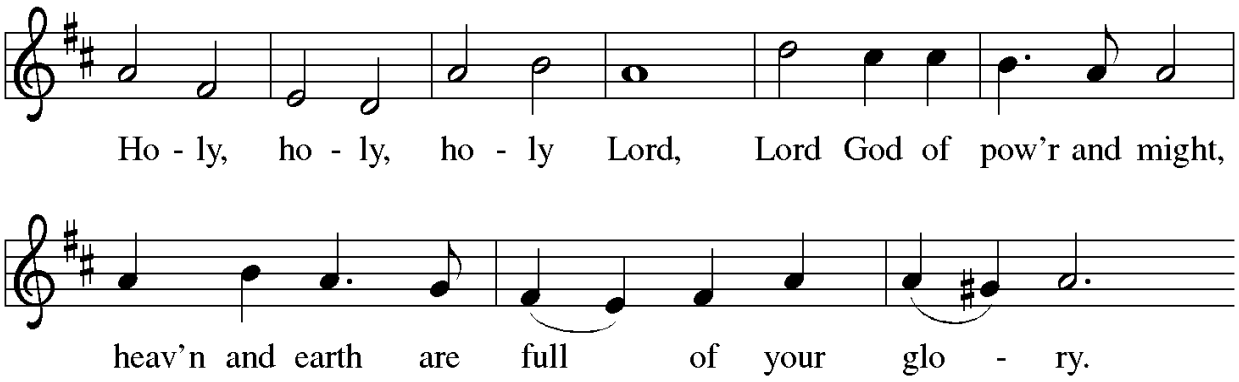
Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

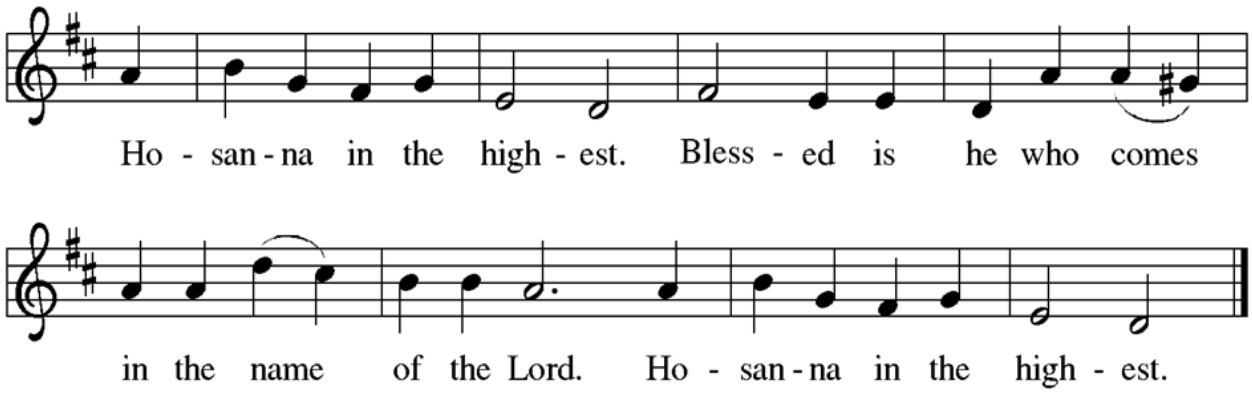
OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray: Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.**

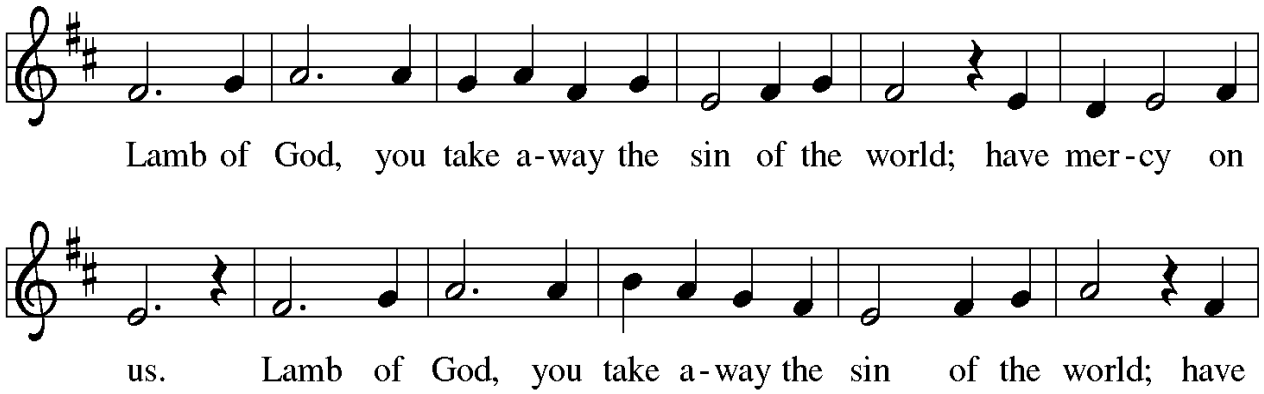
LORD'S PRAYER

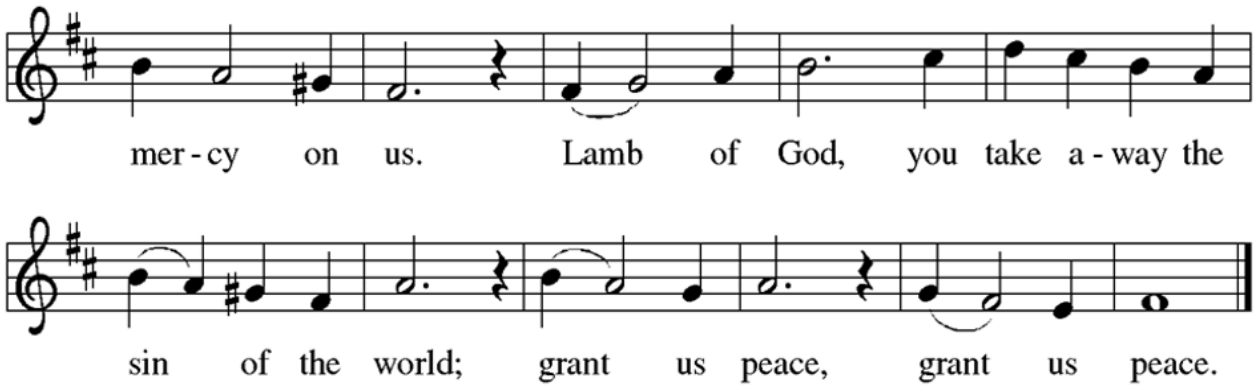
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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 679 *"For the Fruit of All Creation "*





1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

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



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.**

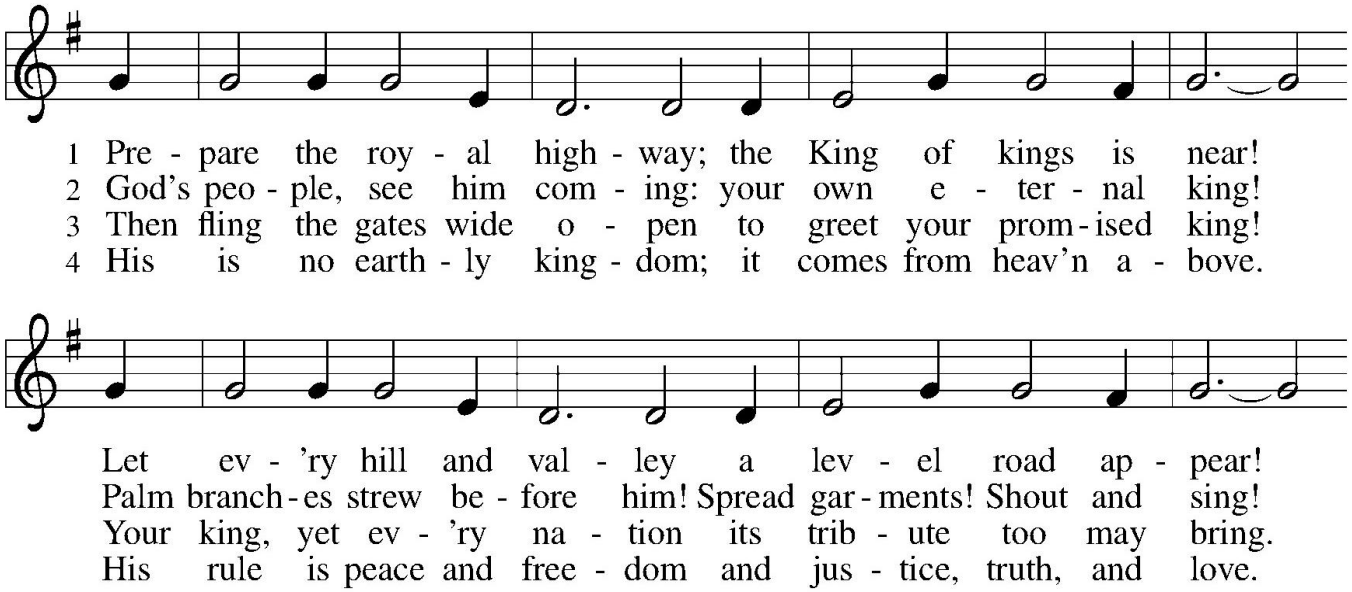
SENDING – God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

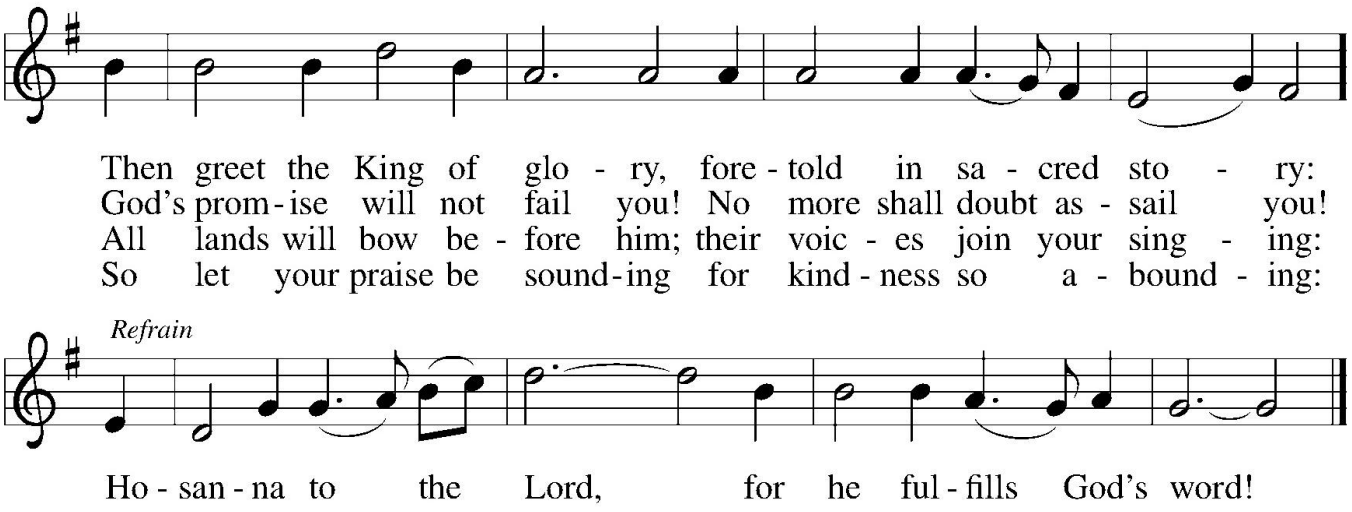
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 264 *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*





Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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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 ***"Come, Thou Almighty King"*** Don Hustad

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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, Joshua Pryce, 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, Ruth, Jordan S., Sal, 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 FRUITS OF THE VINE are given in loving memory of our parents Mary and Arthur Swanson by Annette and Carolyn Swanson .

Daily Bible Readings for Year A (November 22 – December 29)
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 11/22 *Lectionary 34 – Christ the King*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Mon 11/23 Psalm 7
Esther 2:1-18
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tues 11/24 Psalm 7
Esther 8:3-17
Revelation 19:1-9

Wed 11/25 Psalm 7
Ezekiel 33:7-20
John 5:19-40

Thurs 11/26 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 13:1-9
Revelation 14:6-13

Day of Thanksgiving
Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Fri 11/27 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 14:1-9
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Sat 11/28 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Micah 2:1-13
Matthew 24:15-31

Sun 11/29 *First Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

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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