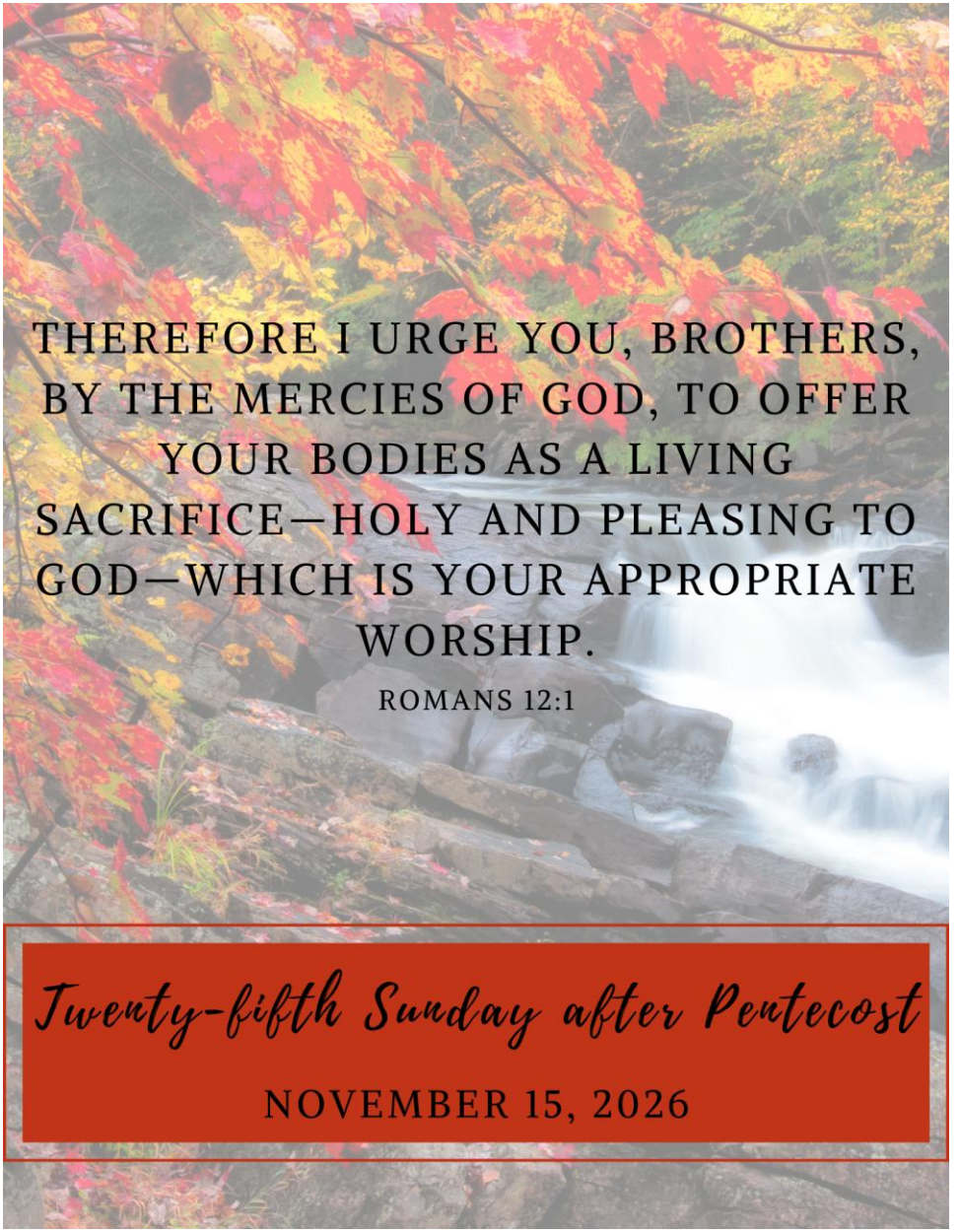
FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Welcome

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

November 15, 2026

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, “The End Is Near.” For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ’s first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It’s the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ’s finished work for us. Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God’s favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God’s ways of keeping us ready.

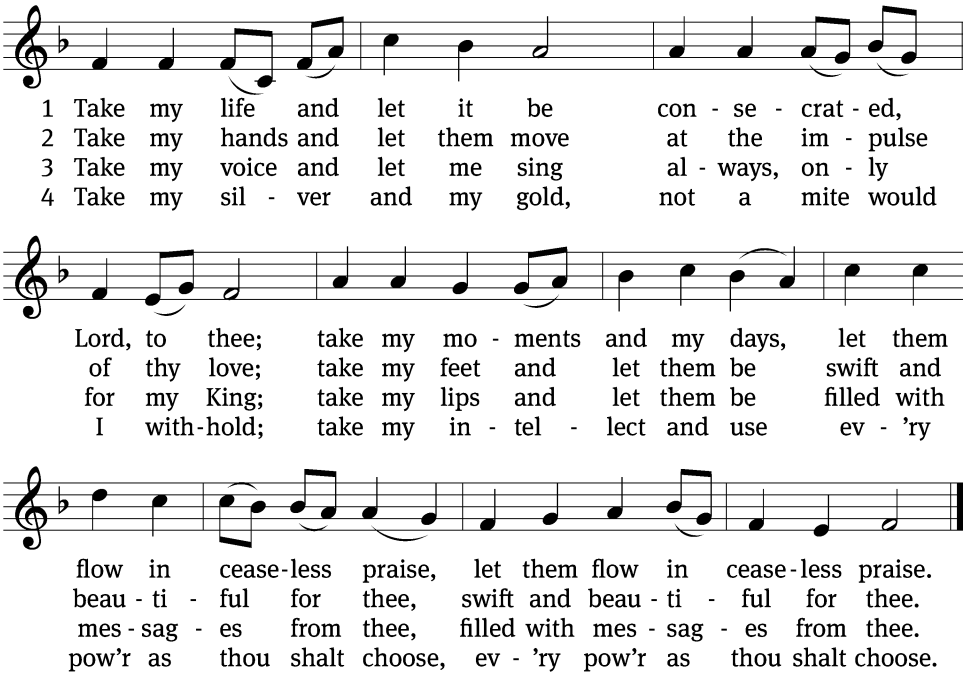
“The Beginning of the End” reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ’s return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today’s Focus:
It’s Time to: Put Your Affairs in Order

When you know that your death is approaching, you try to put your affairs in order for the sake of others. When you know that the second coming of Christ is approaching, what is the appropriate response? We are not to be sedentary. Jesus has not yet returned because there is still work to be done.

And Jesus carries out his good work through us. So until he comes again and says, “Stop!” we will be busy with faithful service. It’s the beginning of the end, and we use our gifts and talents in an orderly way for God’s glory.

Opening Hymn — 696 Take My Life and Let It Be



5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: Henri A. C. Malan, 1787-1864
Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
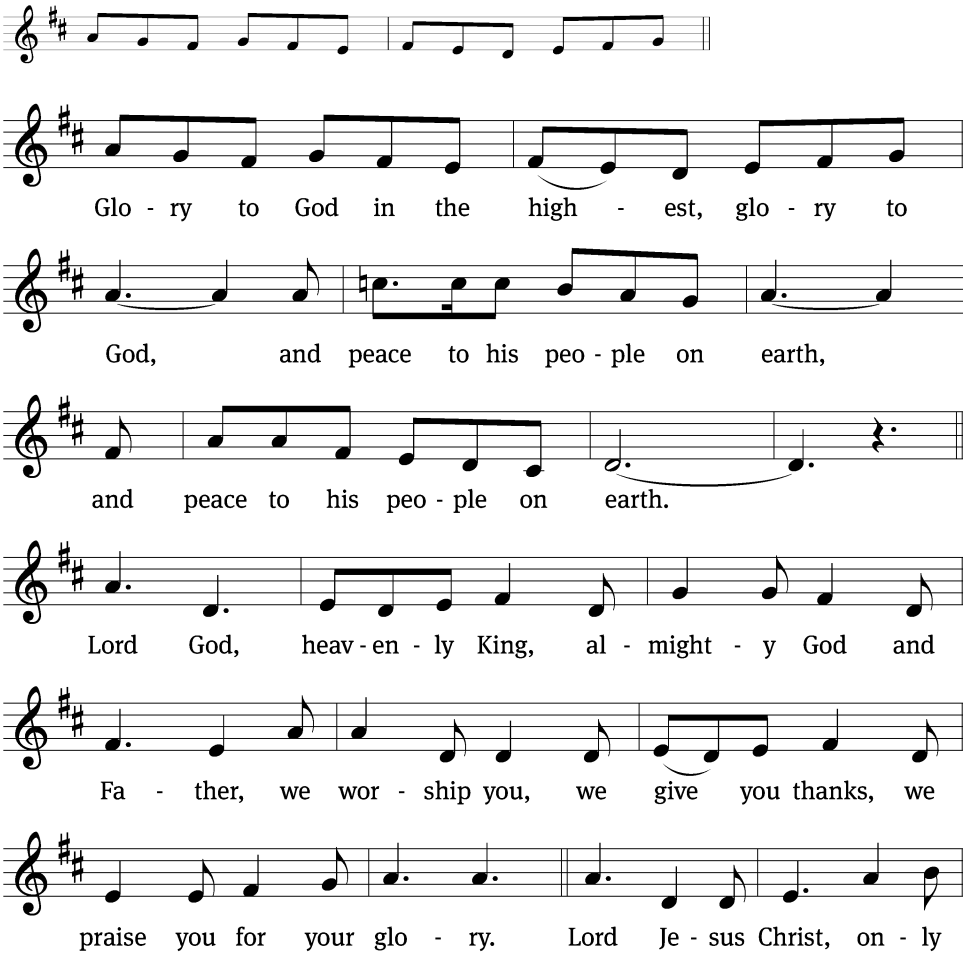
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
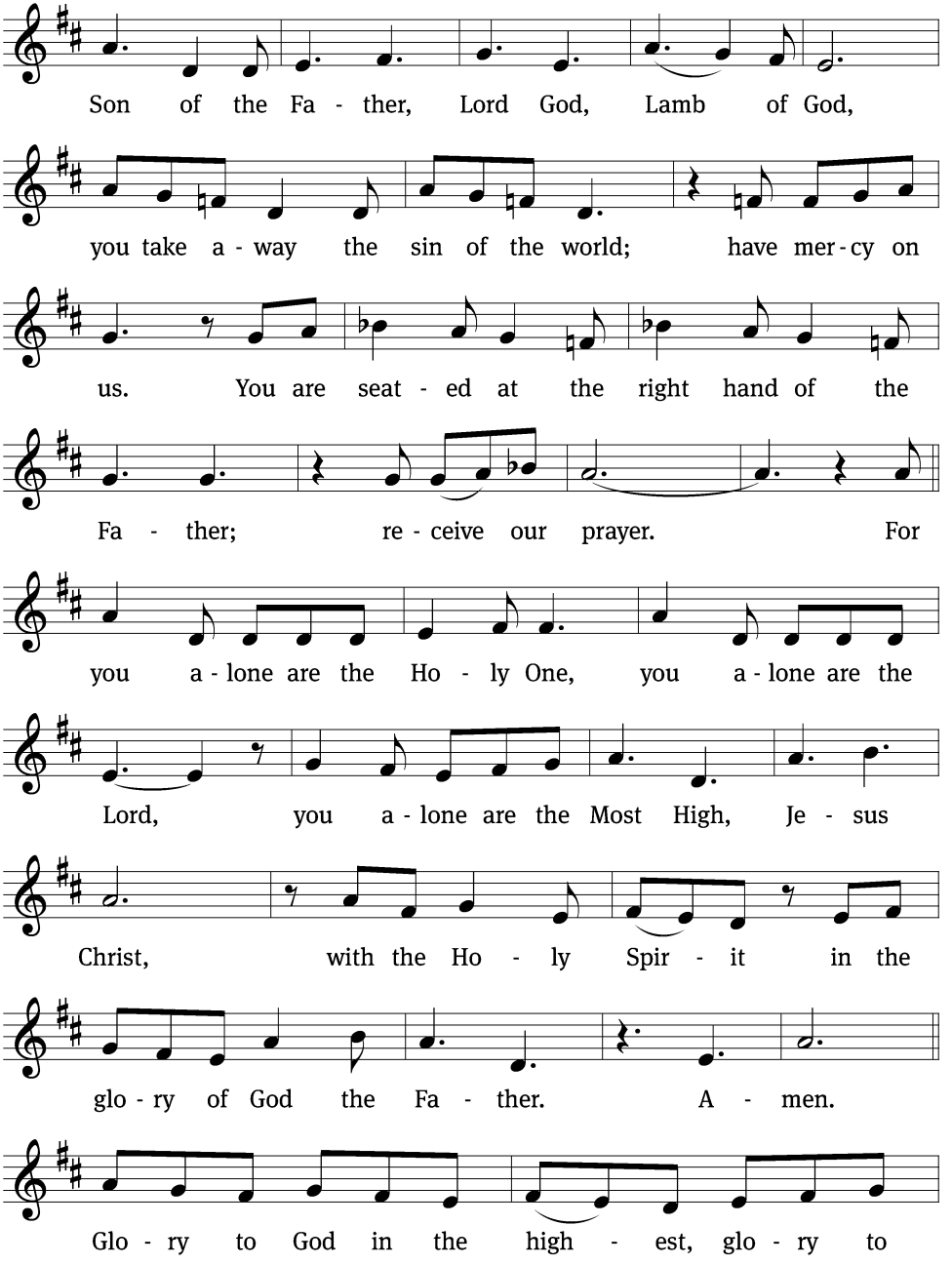
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

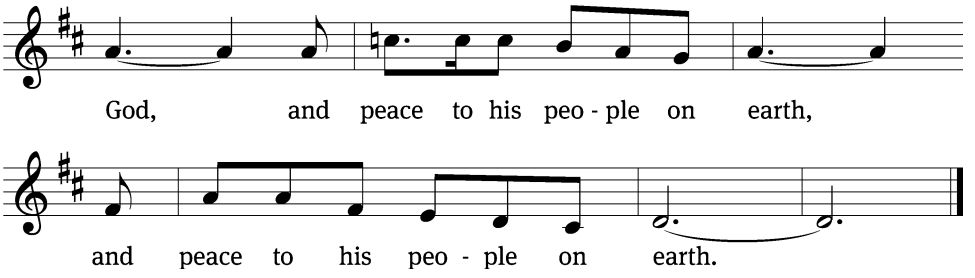
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest




Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
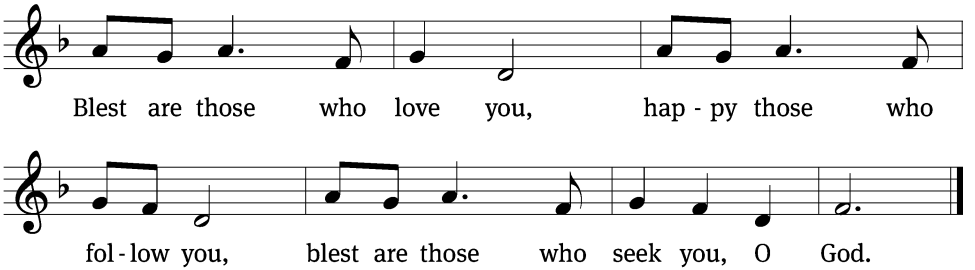
First Reading — Isaiah 1:10–18

Although Old Testament Israel responded to God's gifts with grudging service, God remained faithful to his promises.

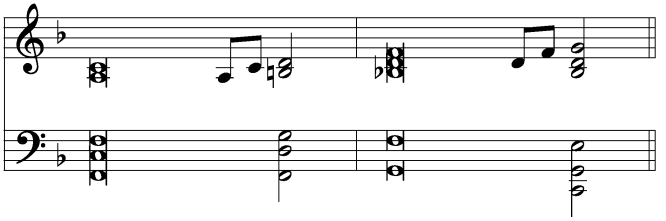
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day — Psalm 128

Refrain



Tone



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table. *Refrain*

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.
May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

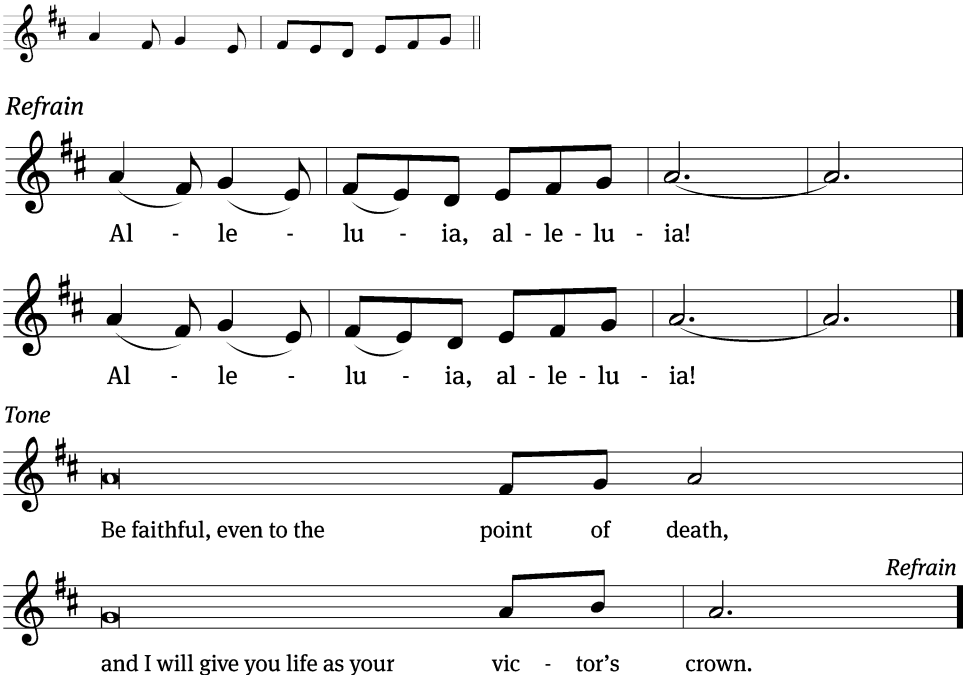
Text: Marty Haugen
Tune: Marty Haugen
Text and tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130002372

Second Reading — Romans 12:1–8

With God's mercy in view, we use God's gifts faithfully in joyful response.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — Revelation 2:10
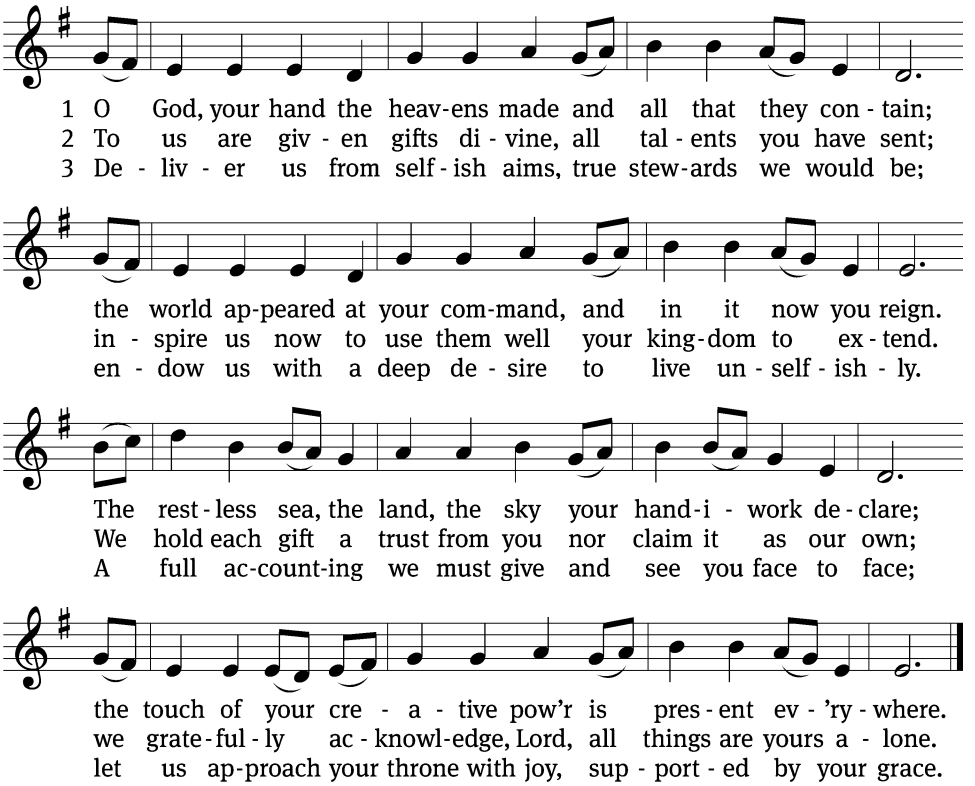


Gospel — Matthew 25:14–30

Through a parable, Jesus calls his followers to faithful service.

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

Hymn of the Day 751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made



Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904–2001
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.
Text: © 1961, ren 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

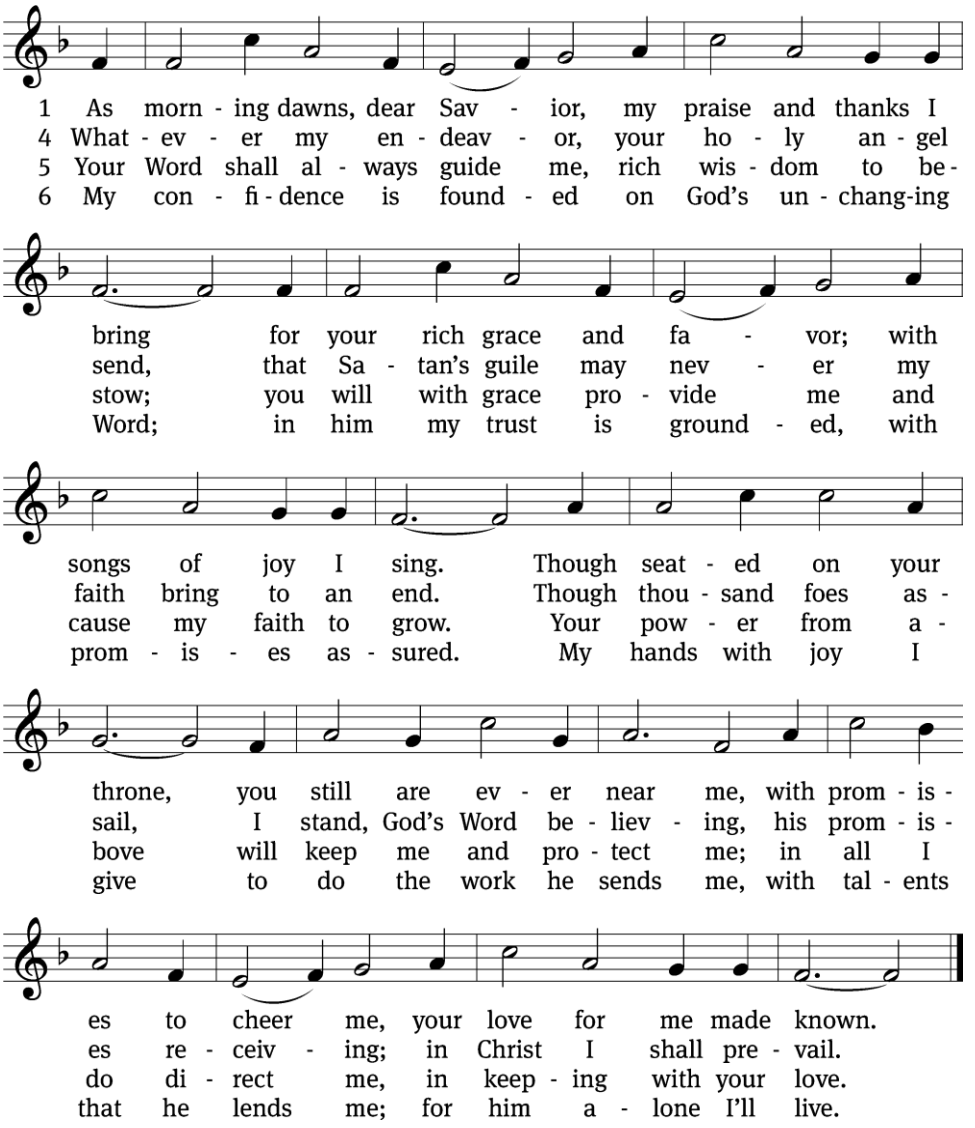
Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Hymn 777 As Morning Dawns, Dear Savior | vs. 1,4-6



Text: Georg Niege, 1525–1588; tr. Mark G. Schroeder, b. 1954
Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.
Text: © 2021 Mark G. Schroeder, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
Tune: Public domain

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

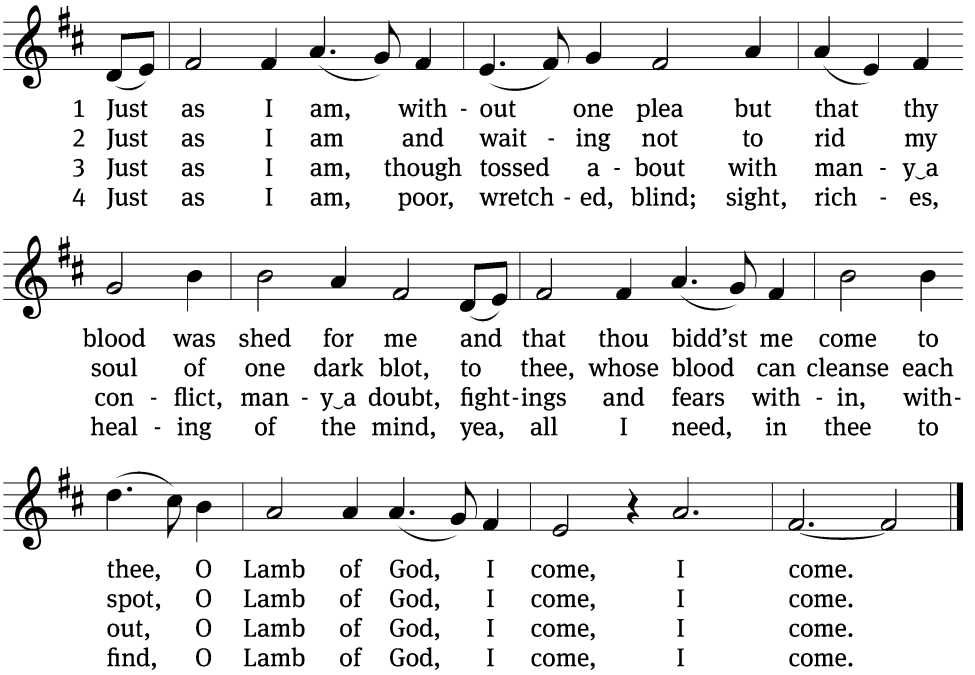
Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 814 Just as I Am, without One Plea



5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt
Accompanist: Kim Anderberg | **Elder:** Jerry Thompson
Altar Guild: Jan Lazzaroni | **Projectionist:** Judy Gifford

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship
Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1101 Logan Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
Phone: (262) 248-3374
Email: church@FirstLutheranWELS.org
www.FirstLutheranWELS.org

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS
Worship| 9:00am

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Worship with Lord's Supper | 6:30pm

OUR STAFF

Pastor Derek Bartelt	(cell) 262-215-0765	pastorbartelt@FirstLutheranWELS.org
Principal Stephen Kamps	(cell) 414-213-8699	mrkamps@ FirstLutheranWELS.org
Office Manager Steven Davis	(cell) 262-903-7080	church@FirstLutheranWELS.org

OUR MISSION

As a family of believers, the mission of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by growing in the faith of our Savior Jesus Christ and by sharing the good news of His Word with others.

OUR INVITATION

It is a privilege for us to share with you the assurance Jesus offers about how imperfect people like us can enjoy a right relationship with our holy Creator.

Our church services are designed to be Christ-centered worship and include three main elements: God speaks to us in His Word, we respond with praises and prayers, and we encourage each other.

We are eager to have you learn more about the Triune God and about our church. If you are looking for a spiritual family in which you can be at home, please speak with our pastor.