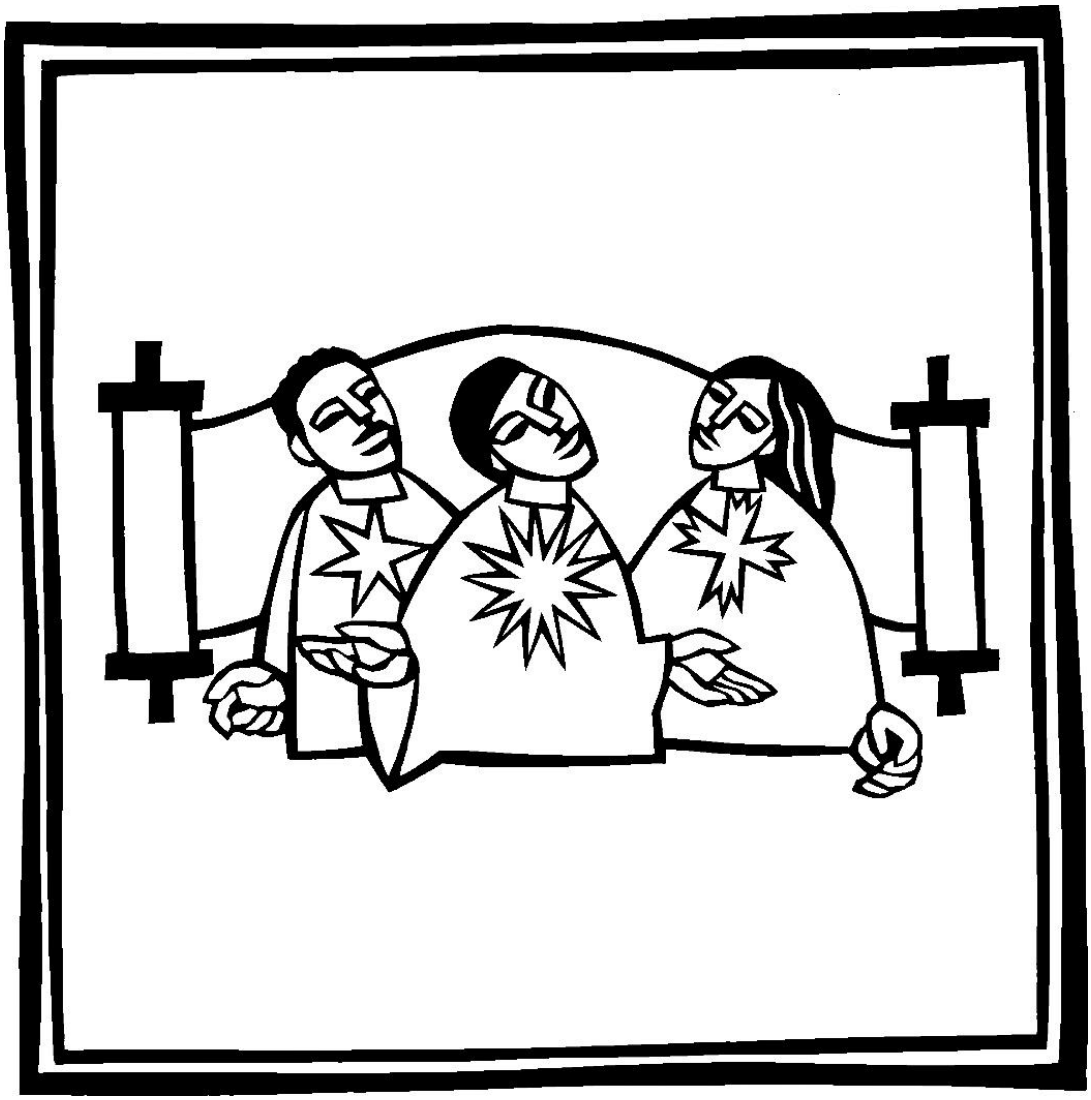


MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Please take a moment to fill out a square on the Messiah Connects form located on the clip board at the end of your row so that we may make a connection with you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE ***A Mighty Fortress is our God*** *arr. Carl Wiltse*

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
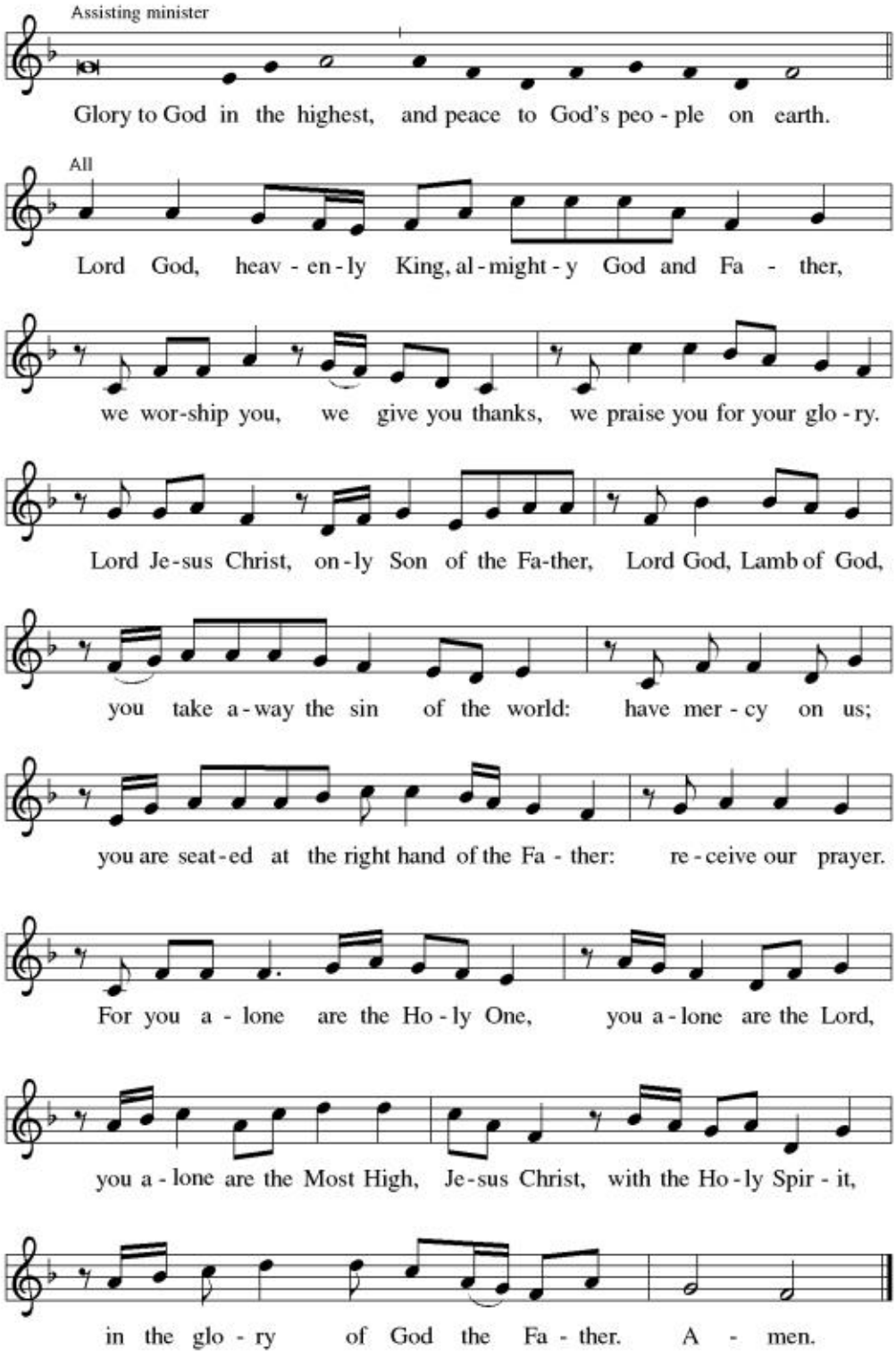
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 ***ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I
made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the
land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the
Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their
hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they
teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know
me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their
iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
8 Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 "Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds

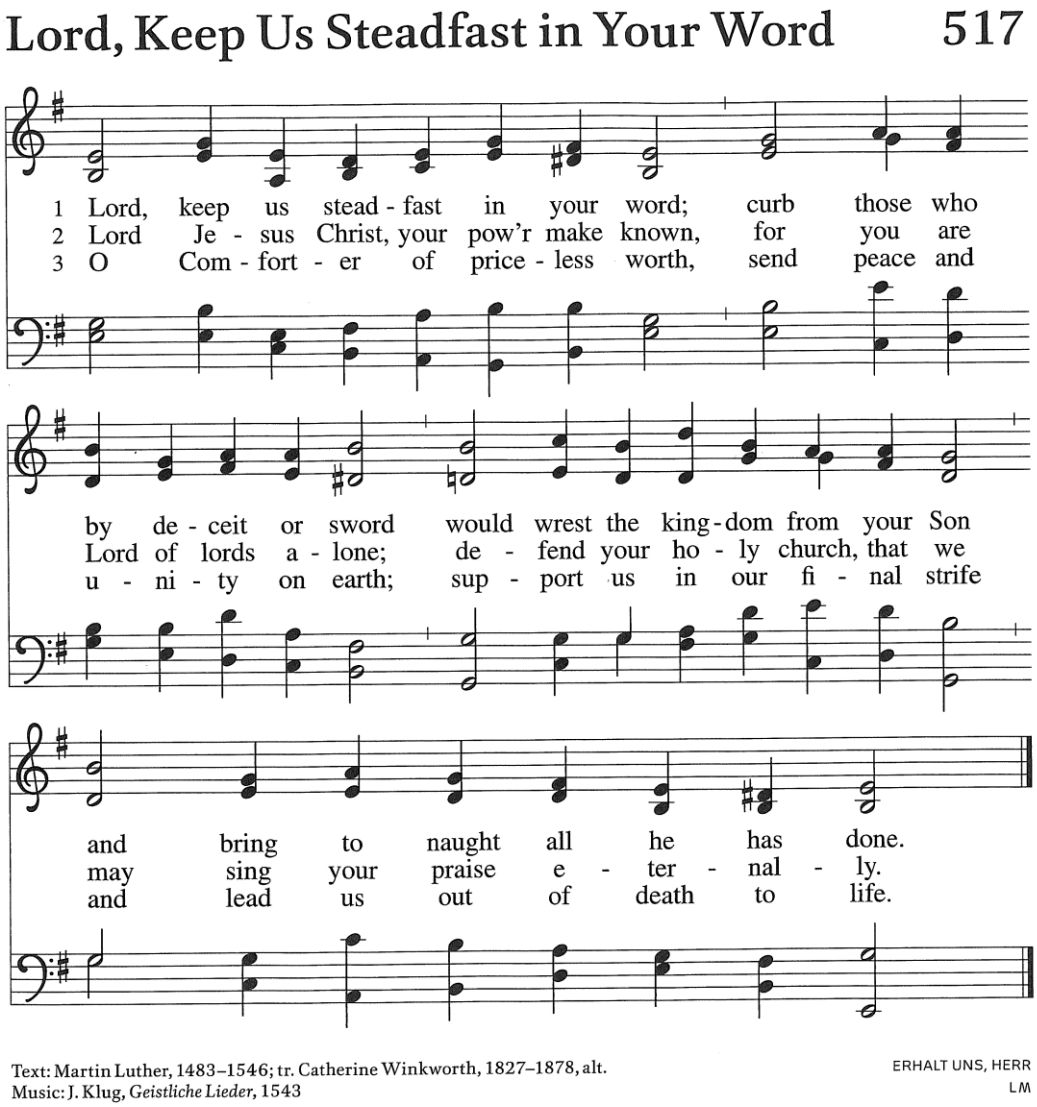
prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and
is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the
faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have
sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a
gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a
sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to
demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over
the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own
righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of
Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law?
That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is
justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Verse 1



Gospel: John 8:31-36
The holy gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you
are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you
free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been
slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a
slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son
has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *(See reverse.)*
Verses 2 and 3

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 665 Rise, Shine, You People!*

NICENE CREED
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Hear Us, O Lord ***for your mercy is great.***

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

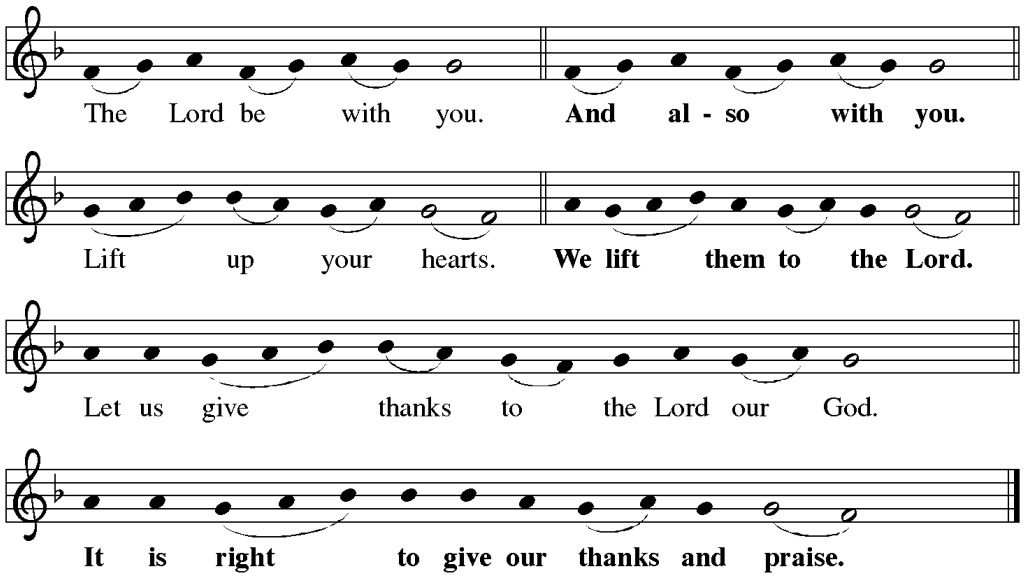
MEAL

OFFERING *ELW 689 Praise and Thanksgiving*

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.
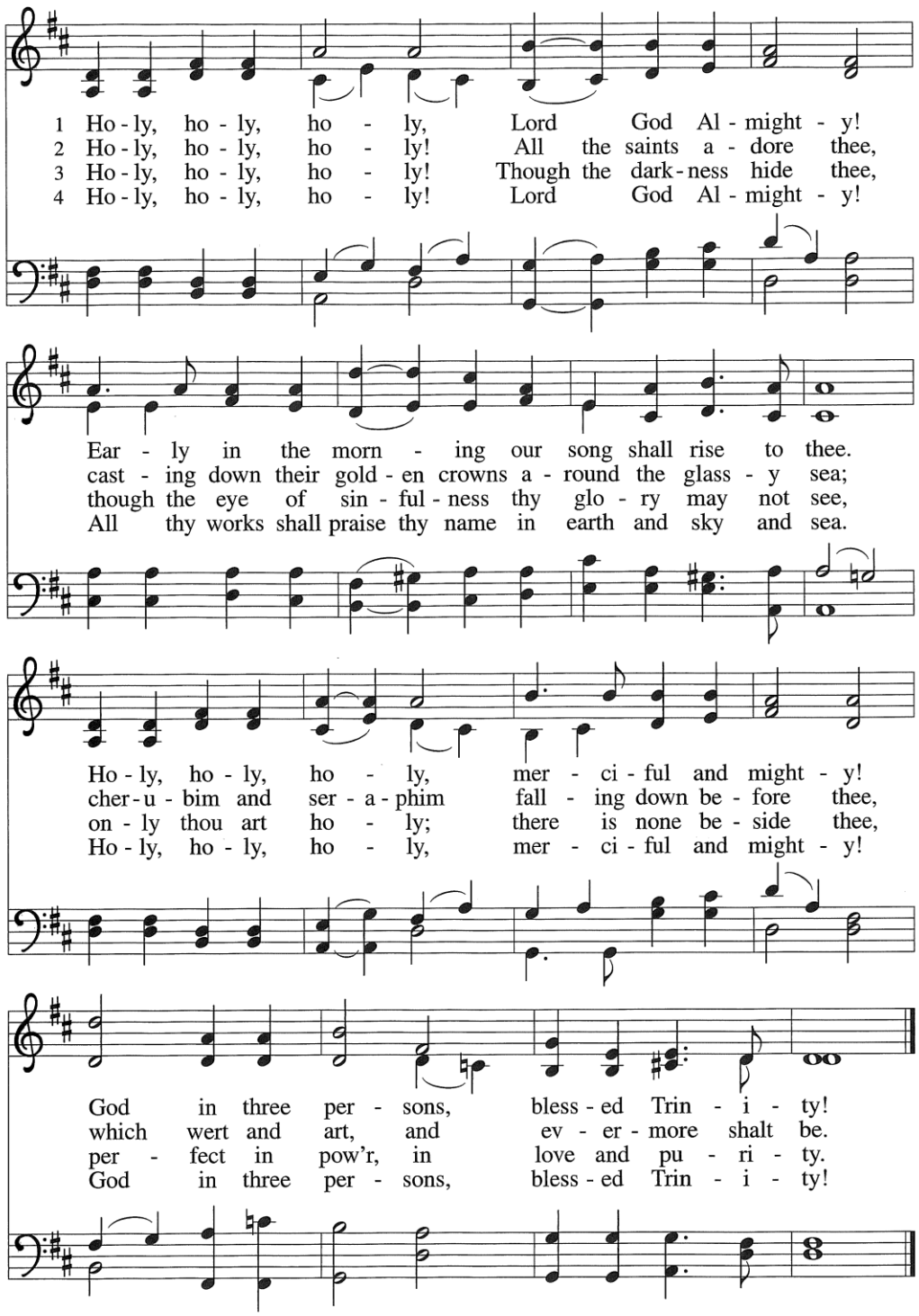
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE *(Pastor)*

Verse 1

413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

NICAEA
Irregular

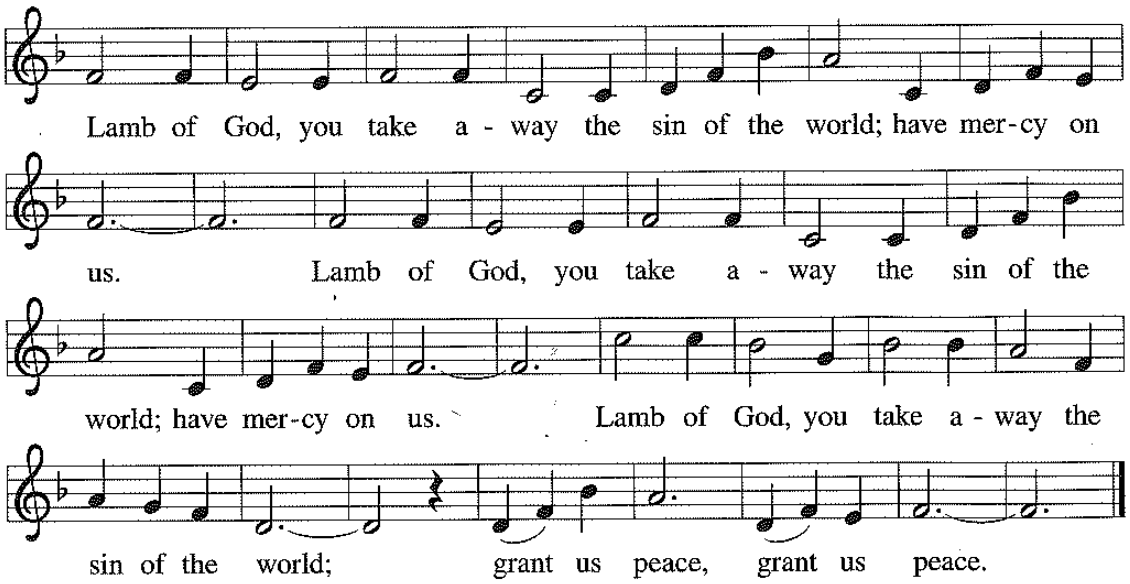
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Please rise in body or spirit

BLESSING
The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.
Amen.
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
The God of all grace ✢ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 511 ***Thy Strong Word, verses 1, 3 and 4***

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Special Offering for October is DSVS

!Daylight Savings time ends next Sunday, November 1 !

Please write your prayer requests in the prayer request book in the gathering area.
We ask that you re-submit requests at the first of each month if they are still desired
or contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or email requests to
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

The people of Messiah are praying for
Renee Boyer, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, Victoria Kittle, Dolly Koski,
Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho,
Nick Roselius, Sadie Sceva, David Smiley, Guynema Terry, and
The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

Messiah Lutheran Church
912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430
Administrative Assistant Hours
Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone, we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes. Thank you.

As a community of Christ's followers, we seek to grow, making a difference in the lives of others.
Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.