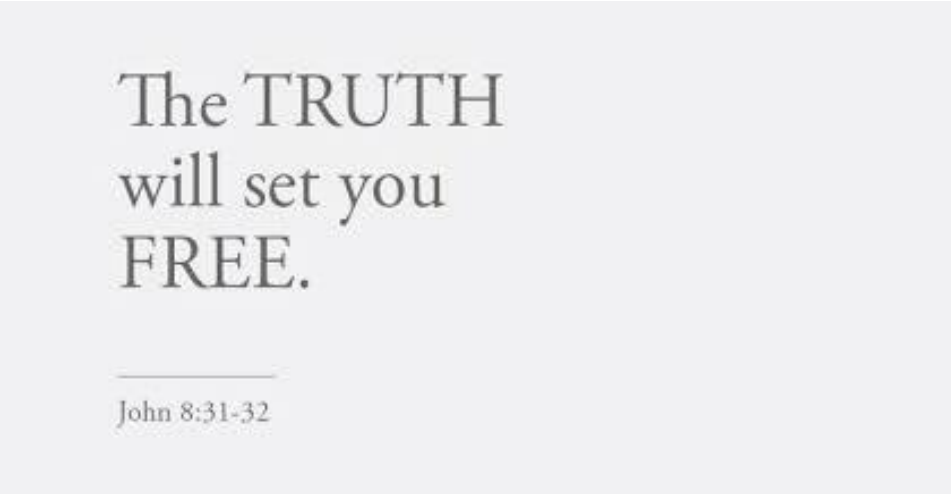


Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2026

9:00 am

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Ted Lockmiller
Lector	Ethan Lockmiller
Offering Bearer	Maggie Hernandez
Parish Administrator	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude:
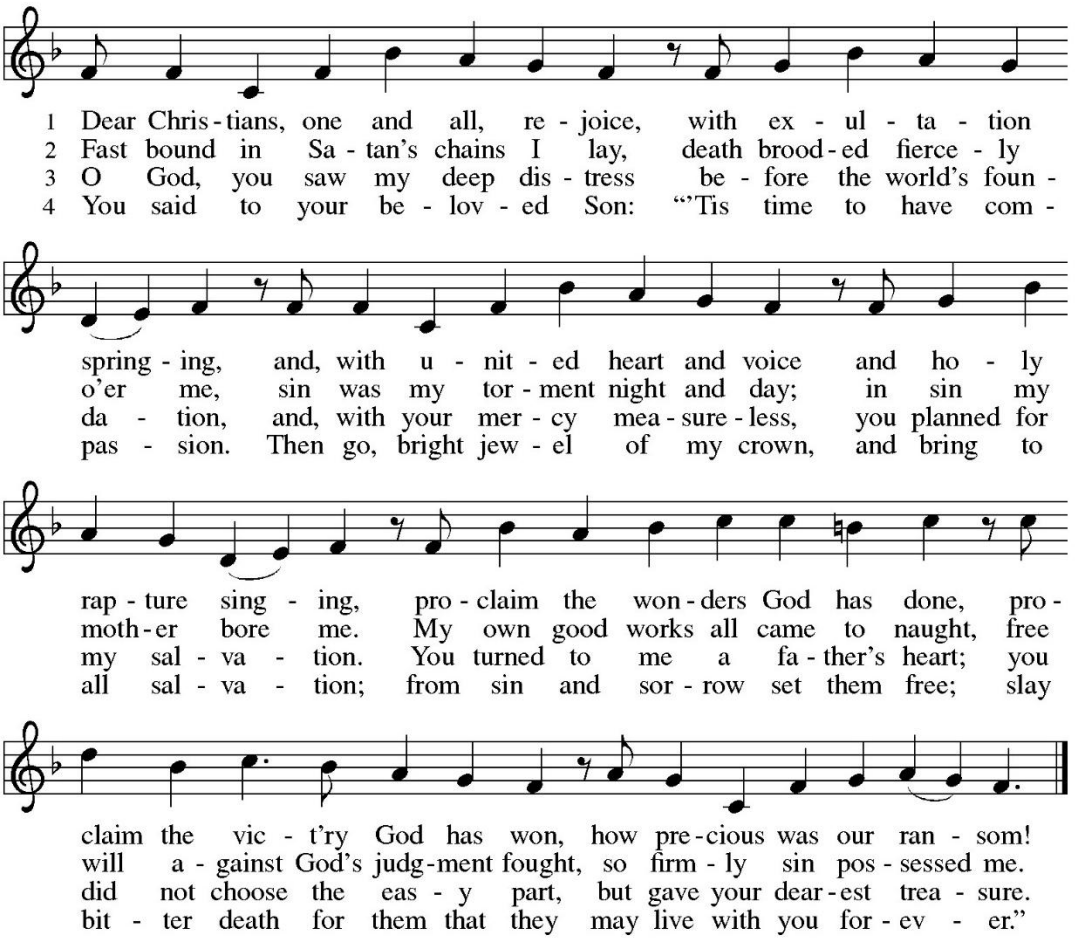
*Confession & Forgiveness

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely
And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

Reforming God, **gather us together this Sunday,**
that we may celebrate the witness of our forefathers and foremothers and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation. Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past as well as in our present days. May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts be one that forms our own faith. Forgive us our sins. Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church and be present to us your in word and sacrament. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

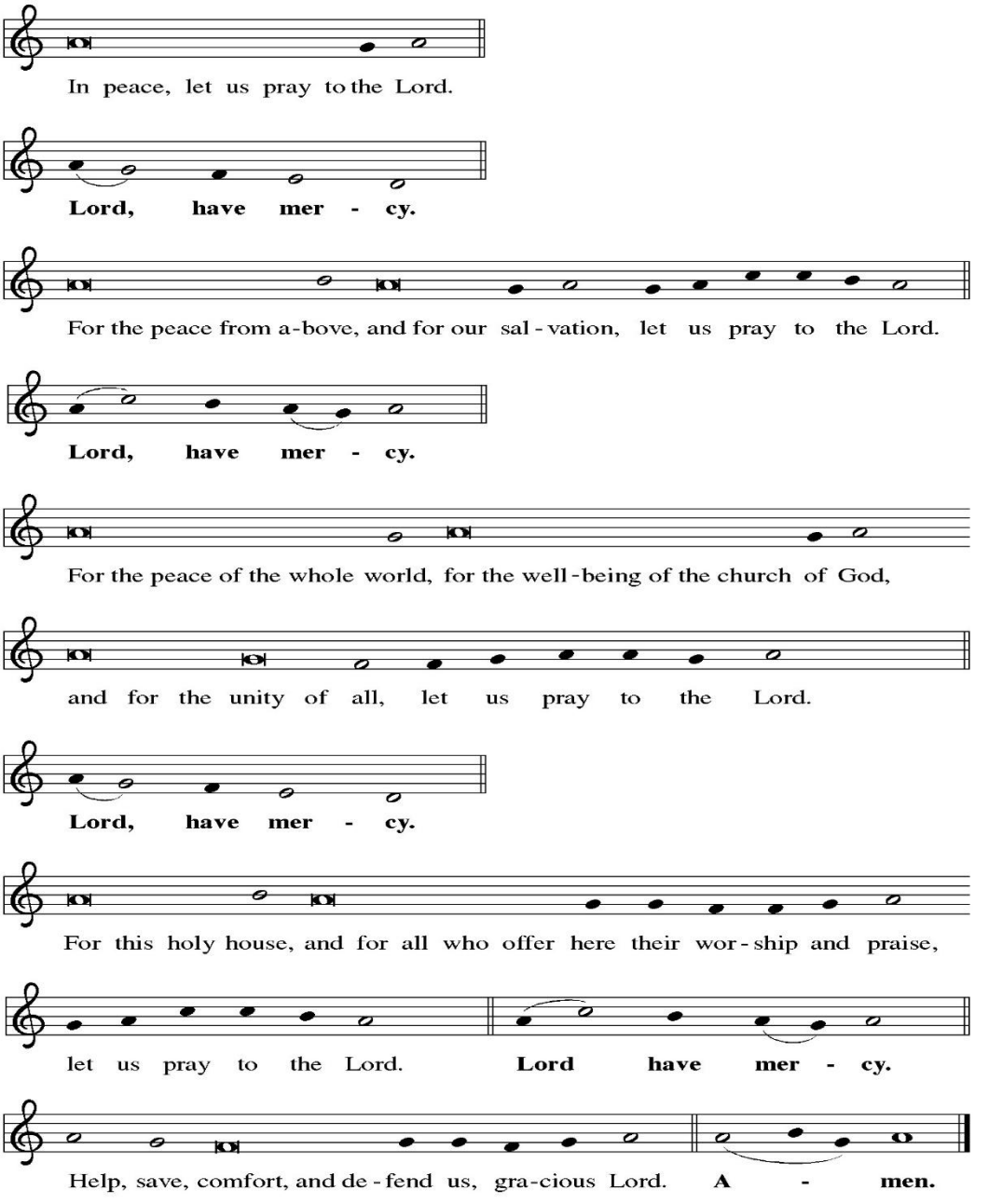
Through the work of the Holy Spirit given to us,
we may come to know the truth and be made free.
Jesus Christ the Son of God sets us free from our slavery to sin.
Our sins are forgiven.
Through his death and resurrection
a place is made for us in the household,
and we may be known as children of God.
To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
ELW # 594
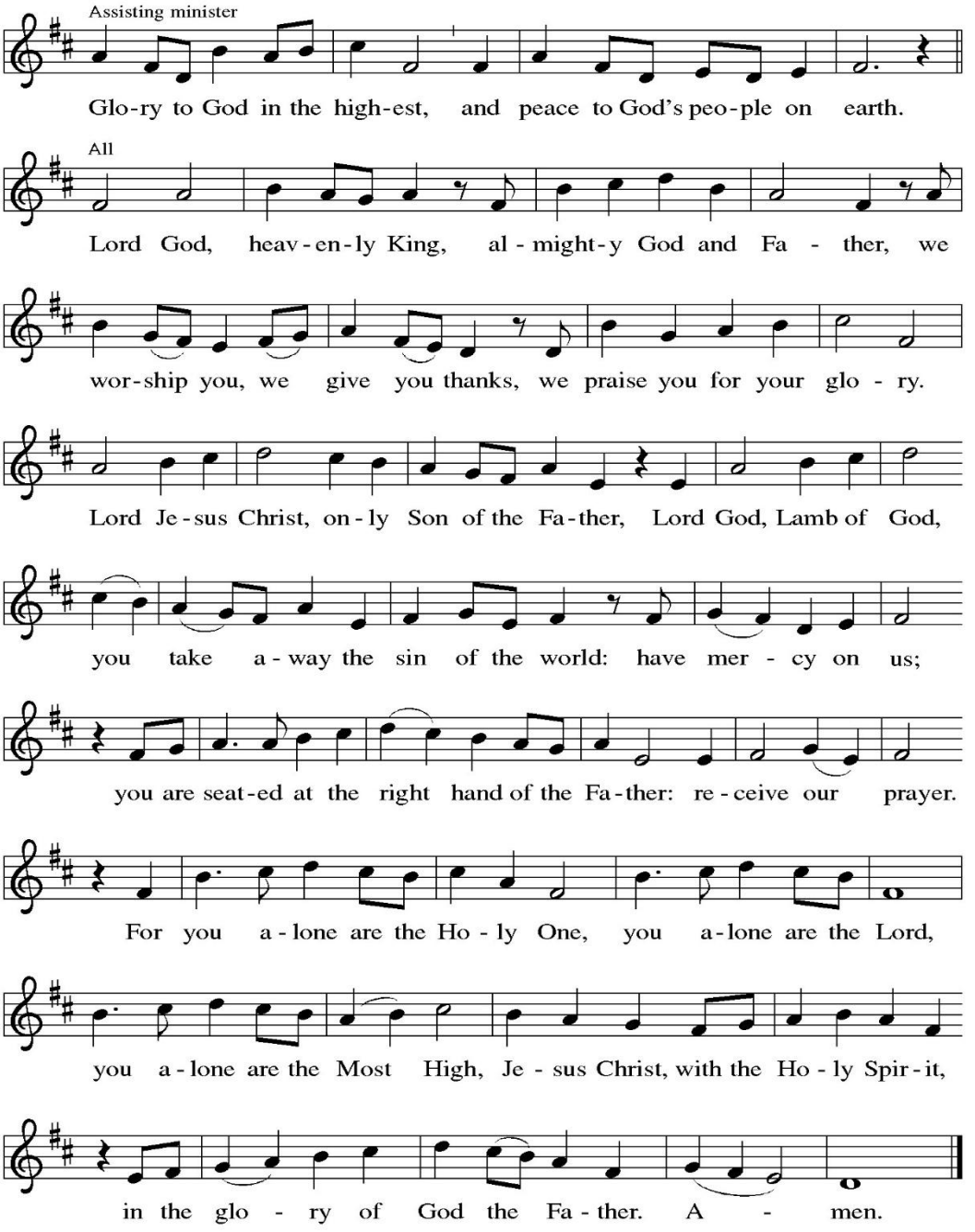


***Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Kyrie


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
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 mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*Hymn 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 us steadfast in your word,
protect and comfort us in times of trial,
defend us 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.

Children's Moment

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

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

Psalm 46

1 God is our ref- | uge 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 cit- | y 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 up- | on 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.

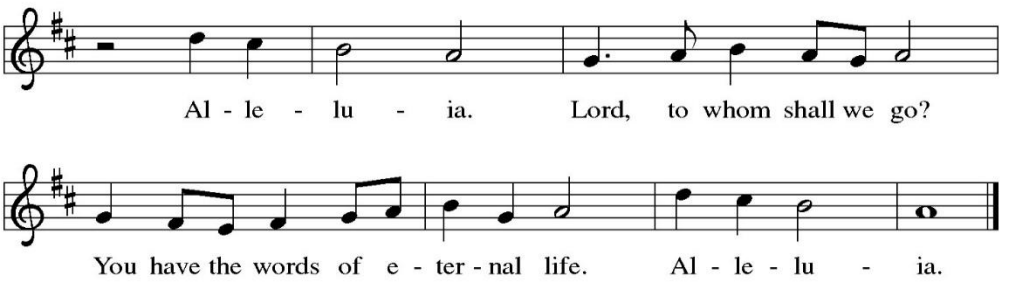
Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

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.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: John 8:31-36

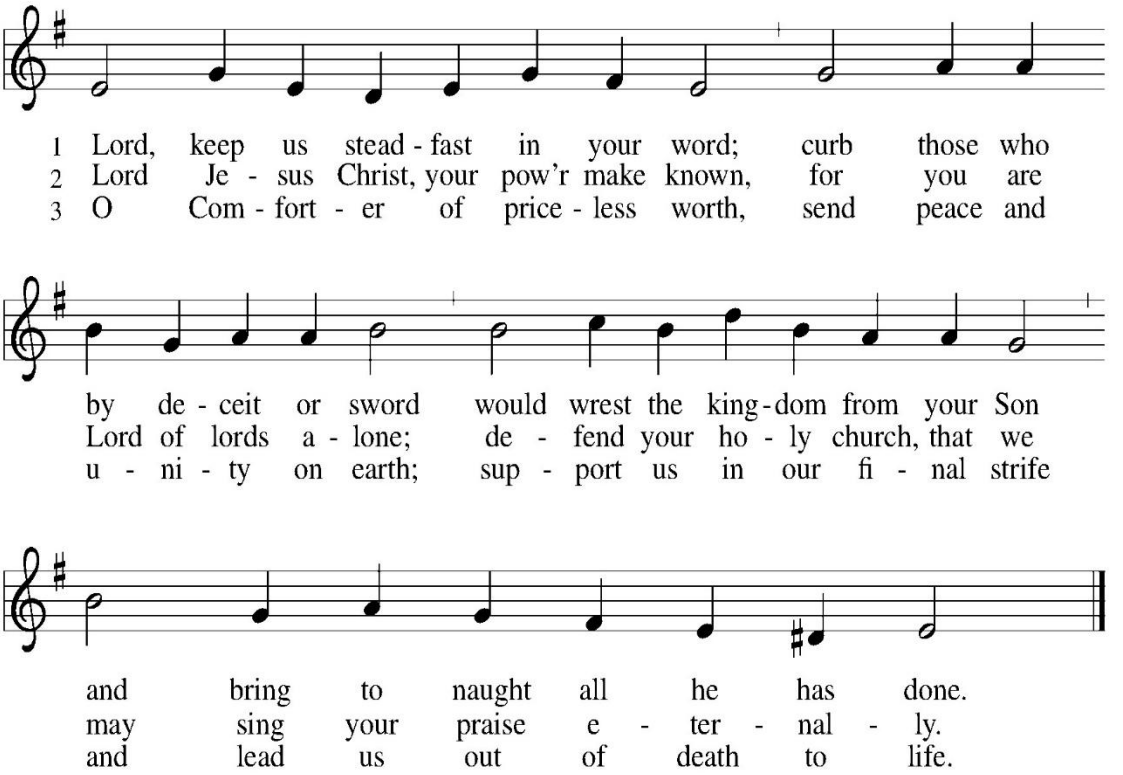
The holy gospel according to John, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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.**

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
ELW # 517



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

*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.*517
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 the People

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

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and

air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

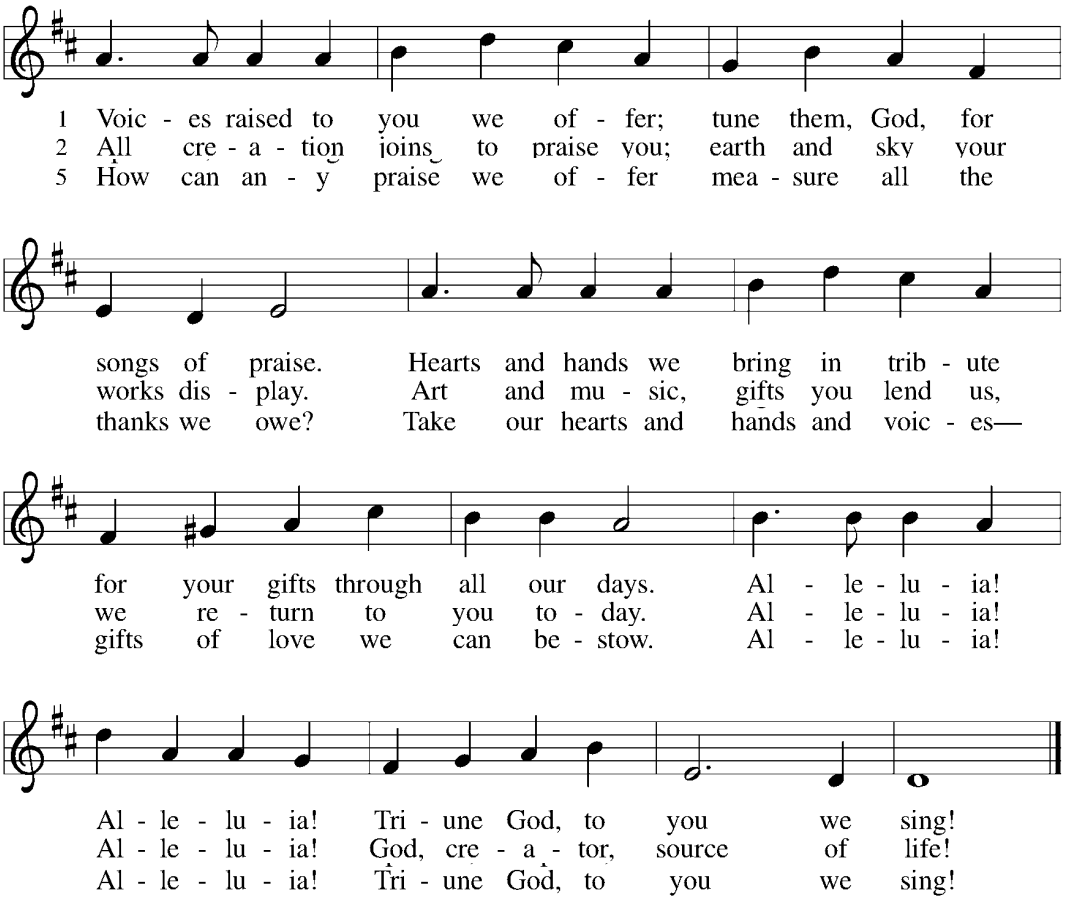
With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always**. And also with you**

*Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW # 845



*Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always**. Amen.**

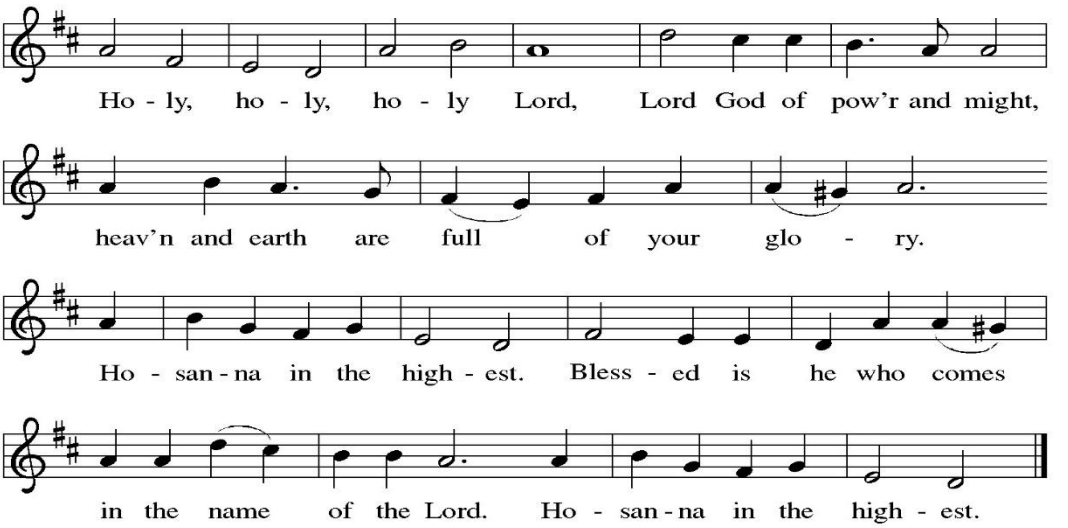
*Great Thanksgiving

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.

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:



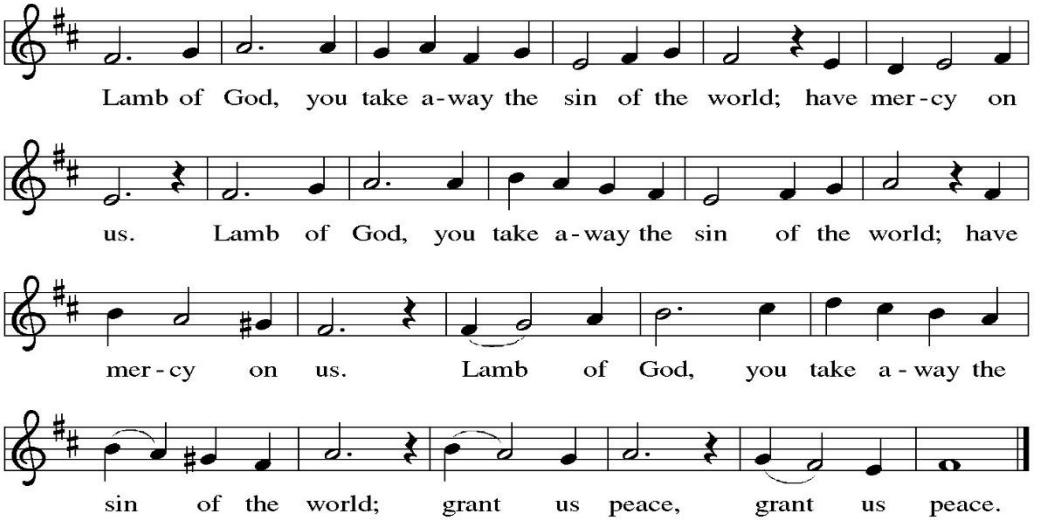
*Eucharistic Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

Communion Hymn



*Post Communion Prayer

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

*Blessing
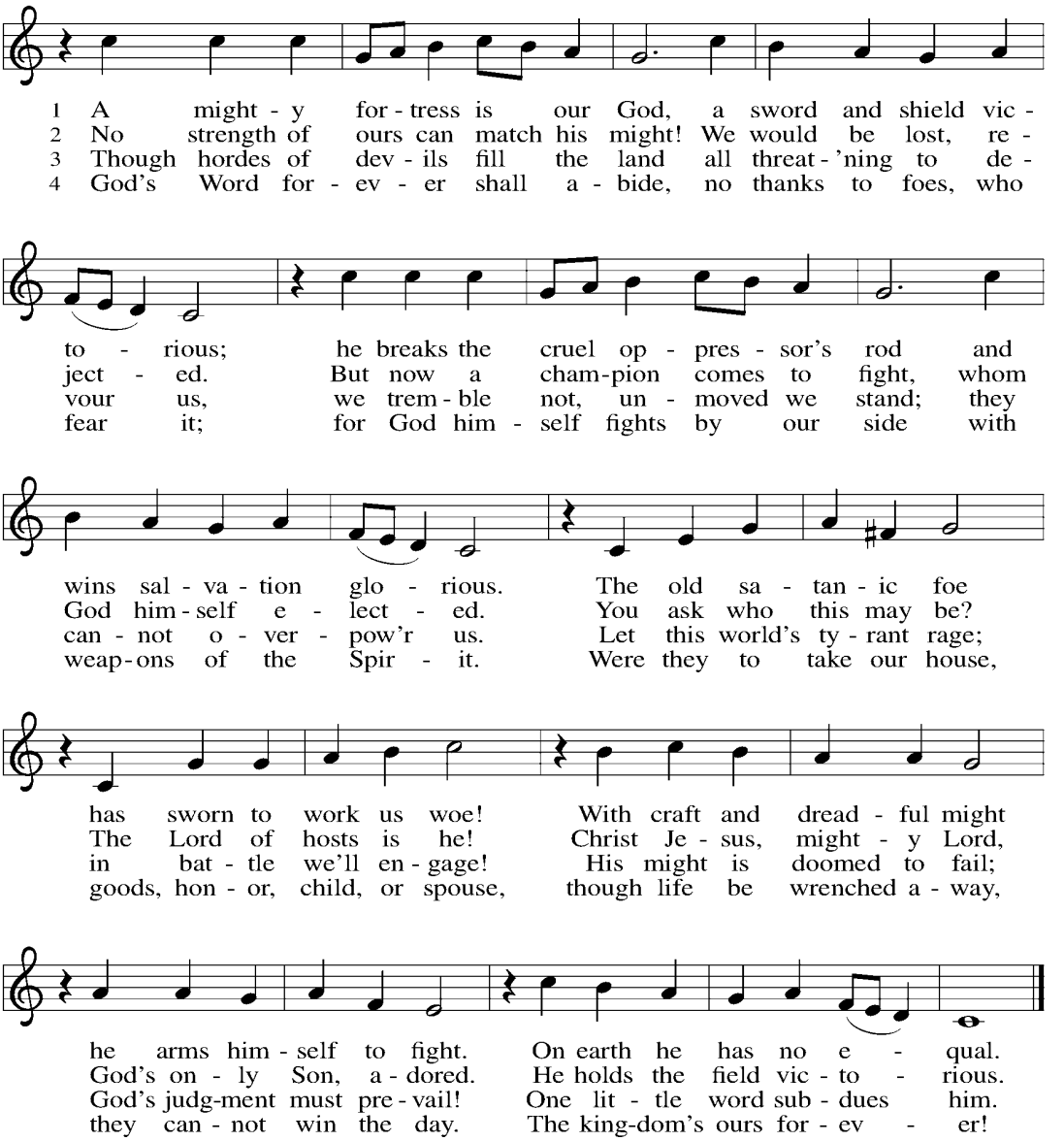
We praise and bless you, God of Life.
Bless us with your presence each day of our lives.

We have seen you and have felt your presence
in the history of your people.
God, be present in our history,
in our communities
and be part of our lives.

With love and mercy, you have cared, led, inspired and sustained your daughters and sons in all generations.
Shine within us, inspire us,
use us to make known your peace, justice, and truth.

Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you who are holy for all eternity **sanctify our lives with your blessing. Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God ELW # 504



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*Dismissal

Go in peace, renewed by grace, rooted in faith, and set free to love and serve the world. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Marge (Shriver) Katarzynski, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Phyllis Nemeth, Patti Novak, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Mary Jane Sesek, Clarence Smith, Claude, Starks, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, , Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week
General Fund receipts for week ending 10/18/2026: $ 955.00

Parish Calendar: 10/25/2026

Sunday	9:00 am Sunday Eucharist
	10:30 am Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary
Monday	6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Hall
Tuesday	6:00-8:00 pm Women's AA Meeting Hall
Wednesday	6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Hall
Thursday	
Friday	6:30-8:30pm GOD AA Meeting in Hall
Saturday	9:00am-12:00pm Art for Soul in Hall NCMBC
	11:00am-12:00pm NCMBC Bible Study in Hall
	3:00 –5:00pm AA Meeting in Hall
	6:00-8:00pm CA Meeting in Hall
Sunday	9:00 am Sunday Eucharist

Office Hours
Monday Office Closed
Tuesday 10:00-3:00pm
Wesnesday 10:00-3:00pm
Thursday 10:00-3:00pm
Friday 10:00-12:00pm
Saturday Office Closed
Sunday 8:00 10:30 am

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