25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 2026
10:30am

ELW setting 10

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA



Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Holy Communion: *We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!*

If you are worshipping with children: *Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options especially for our young worshipers.* ***Children's bulletins*** *are available from the ushers. We have a* ***Cozy Corner****, with books and quiet activities, in the back part of the sanctuary. We also have a staffed* ***nursery*** *available during our worship gathering. You will find it down the administrative wing, on the left. We also encourage parents and guardians to point out* ***Kids' Cues*** *during the service, as a way to help younger worshipers be more fully engaged.*

Our Mission Statement: *"To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."*

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

Introduction to the day
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.

+ + + GATHERING + + +

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

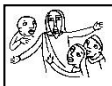
A note to children and families: watch for "kids' cues" throughout today's service. These are opportunities to engage in worship and stay connected as all generations of Grace worship together. Parents and other helpers - we encourage you to help your children notice these cues and participate at whatever level is appropriate for them.



WELCOME & KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* arr. Charles Ore

Please stand as you are able.



Kids' Cue

Join Pastor at the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

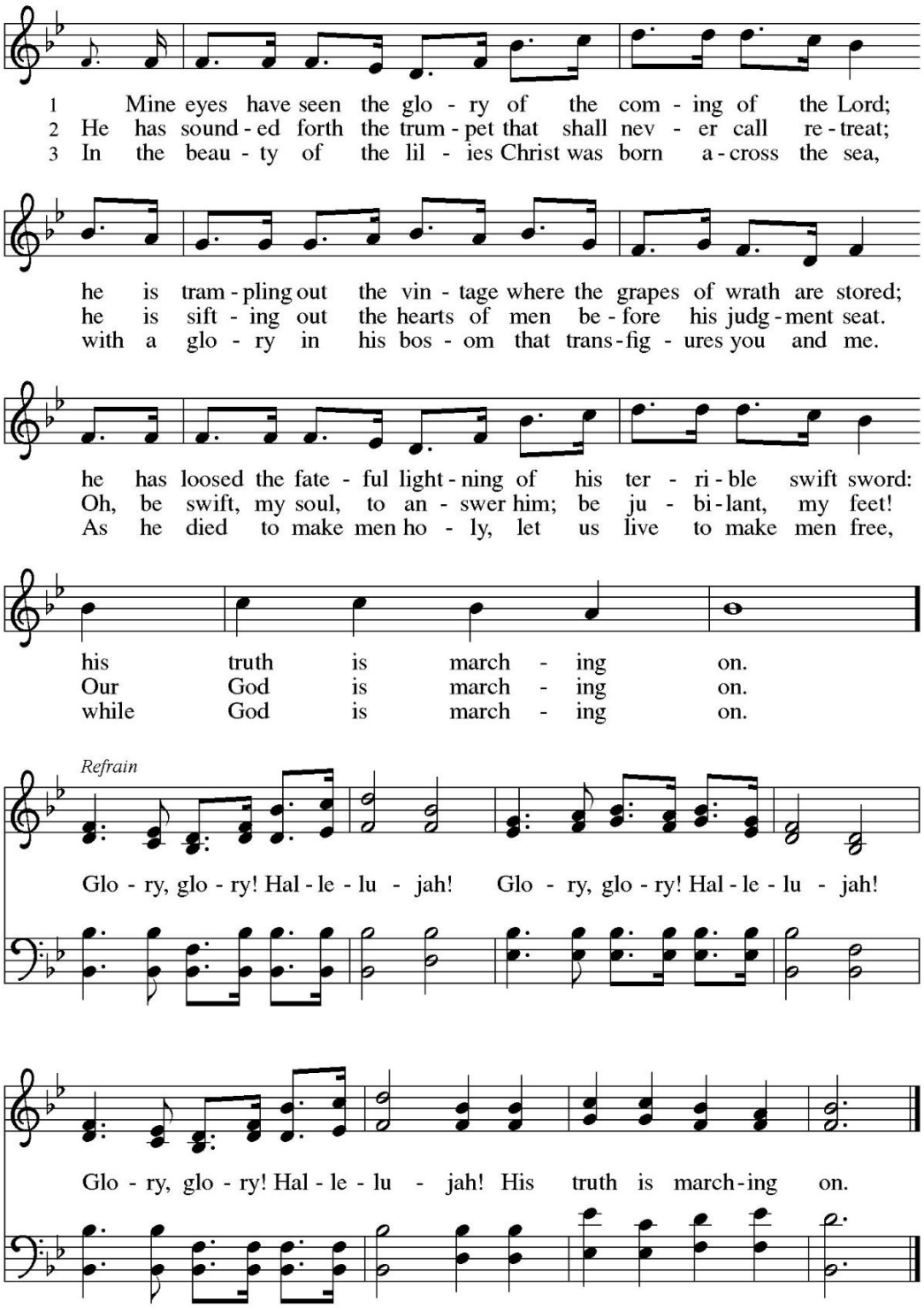
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence 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 SONG ELW #890, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*



Kids' Cue

Walk with Pastor to the front, then go back to your family.

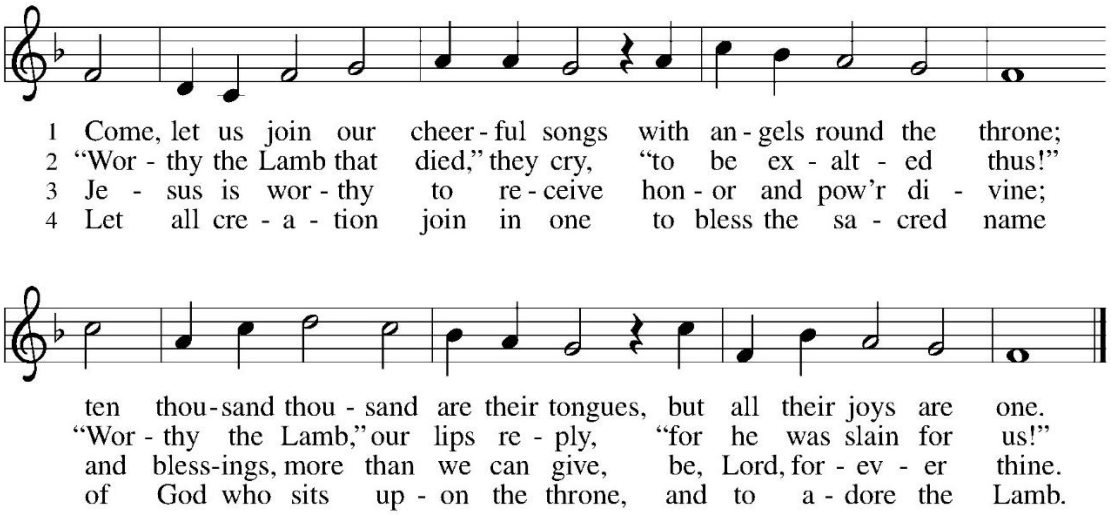
GREETING

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.

Kids' Cue

Extend your hands to also share your blessing with Pastor.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





Kids' Cue

Throughout the canticle, ring a chime.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

+ + + WORD + + +

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

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.

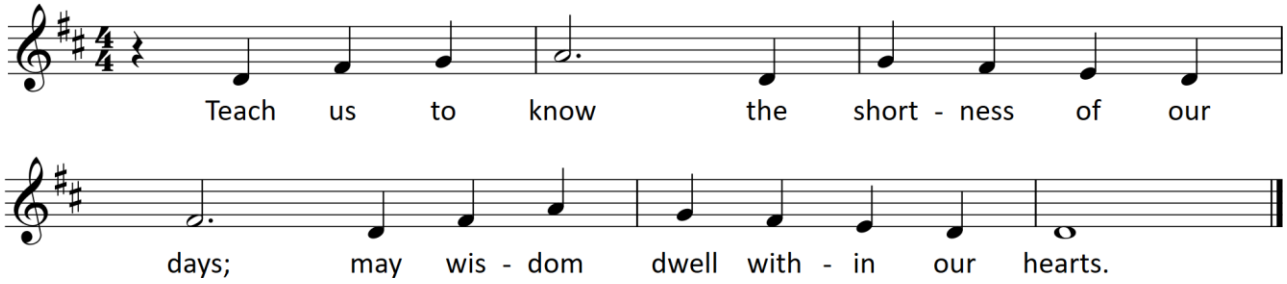
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



PSALM 90:1-12

A cantor introduces the refrain; all repeat it.
The choir sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.



Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night; ***Refrain***

you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass: in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath. Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. ***Refrain***

> *When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone. Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation? So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.* ***Refrain***

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.

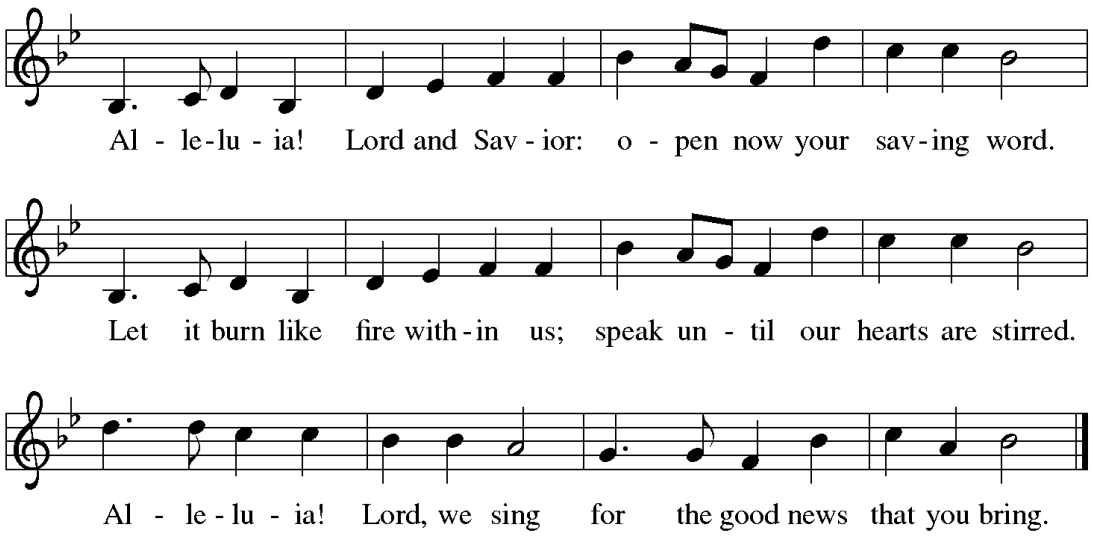
A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Kids' Cue

What does "open now your saving word" mean?

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.

Please be seated.

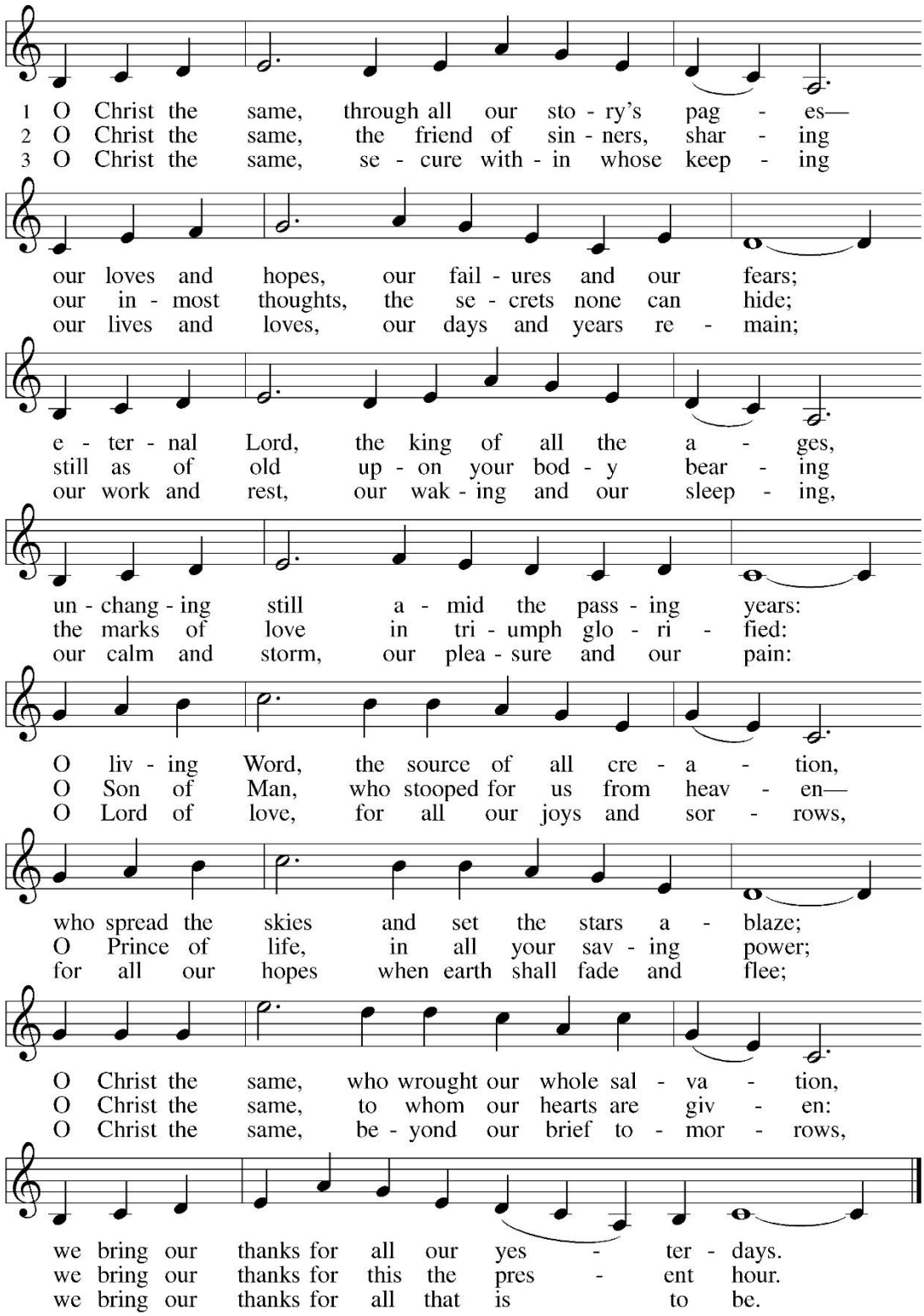
SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

Kids' Cue

What have you done lately that probably makes God happy?

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Christ the Same*



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.



Kids' Cue

How many days was Jesus dead?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each portion of the prayers:

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.



Kids' Cue

Listen for a prayer about other parts of the world.

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

+ + + MEAL + + +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

To donate electronically, use this QR code.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Spirit Truth, Pure Light of Love* Robert Powell

Voices of Grace

Spirit Truth, pure Light of Love, guiding Light of God above; make Your beacon ours;
inspire us to shine so all may know the radiance of the Spirit's own revealing power.

Spirit Wind, sweet Song of Love, stirring Song of God above, make Your music ours;
excite us to sing so all may know the anthem of the Spirit's own resounding power.

Spirit Fire, fierce Breath of Love, blazing Breath of God above, make Your passion ours;
impel us to live so all may know the fervor of the Spirit's own resplendent power.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.



Kids' Cue

What are some of the gifts you have received from God?

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

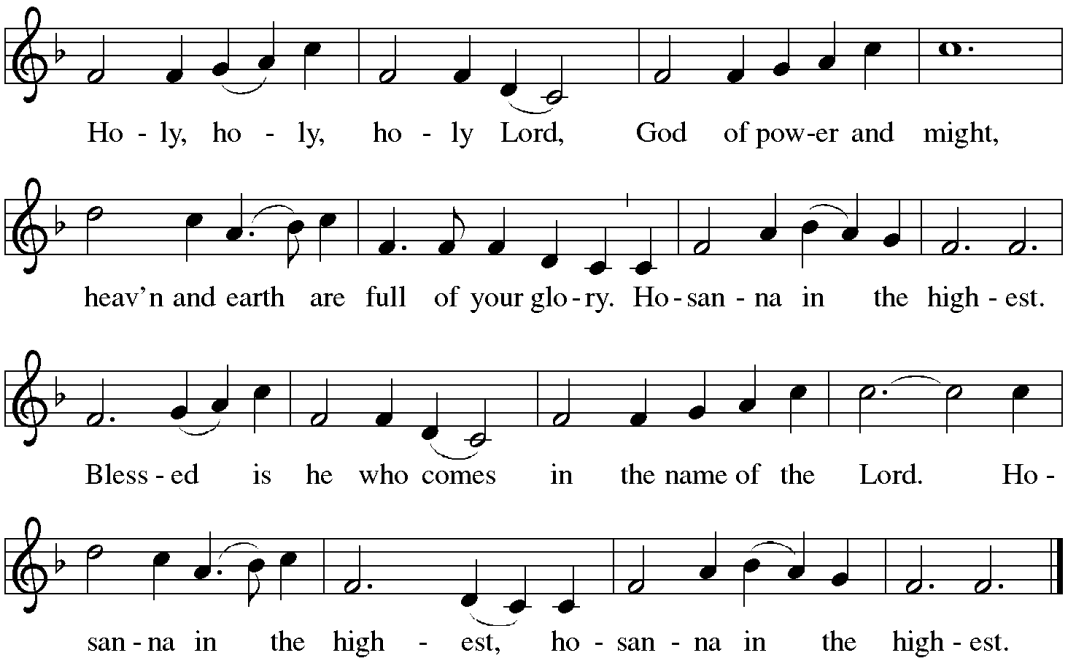
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right … join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God … both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.



Kids' Cue

Why was it important to Jesus that his disciples learn to pray?

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

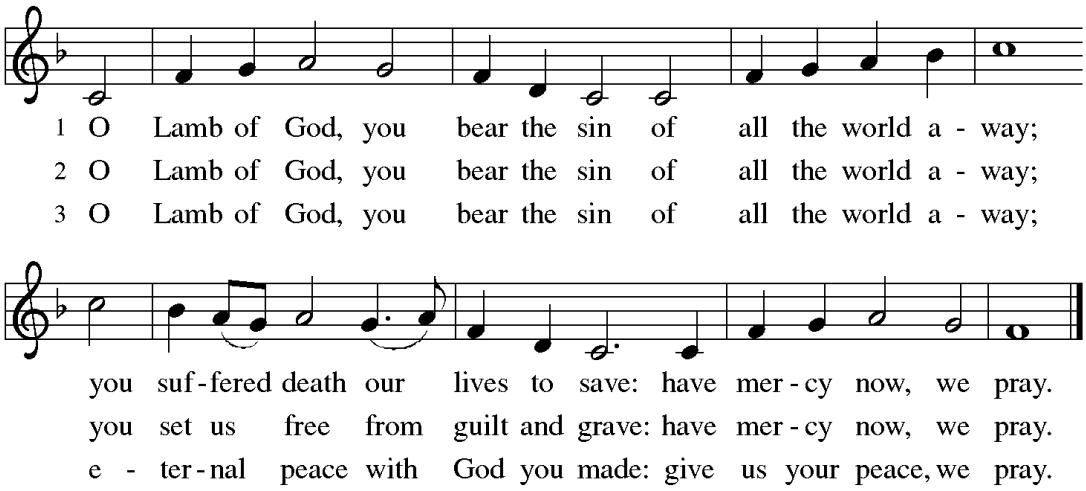
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please be seated.

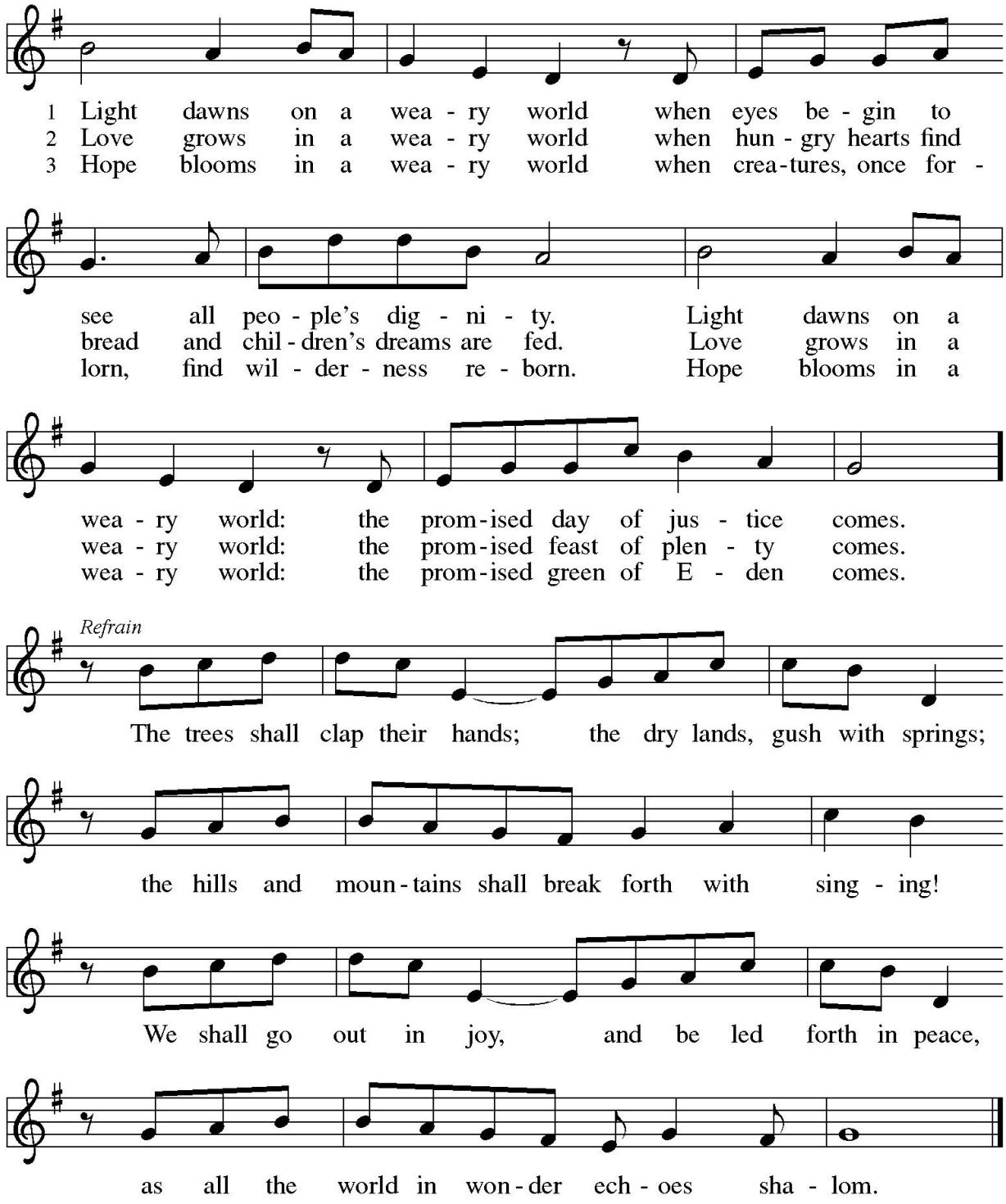
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



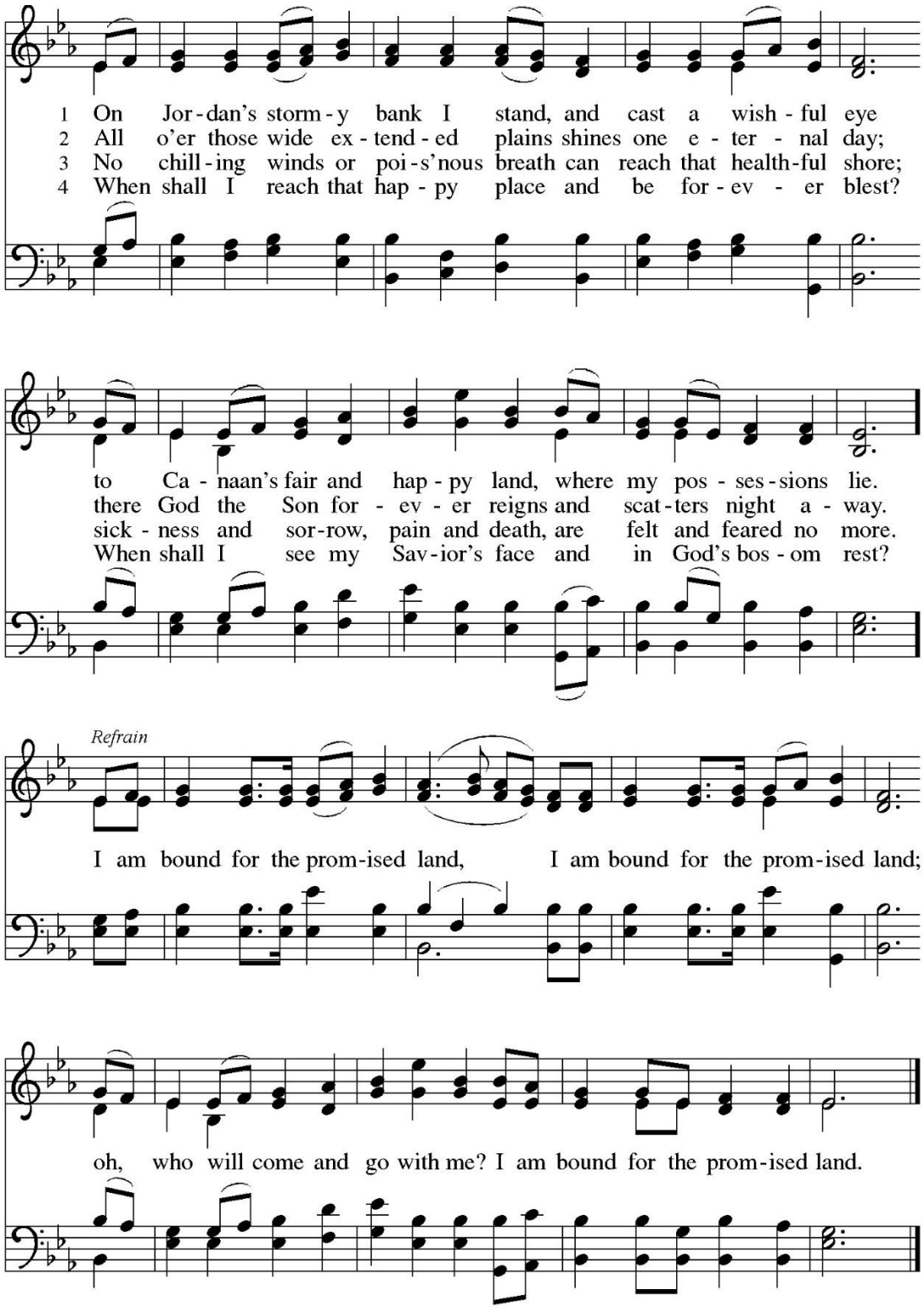
DISTRIBUTION SONG ELW #726, *Light Dawns on a Weary World*



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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DISTRIBUTION SONG ELW #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

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**



Kids' Cue

What does it mean for us to be "awake to God's presence?"

+ + + SENDING + + +

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

Please be seated.

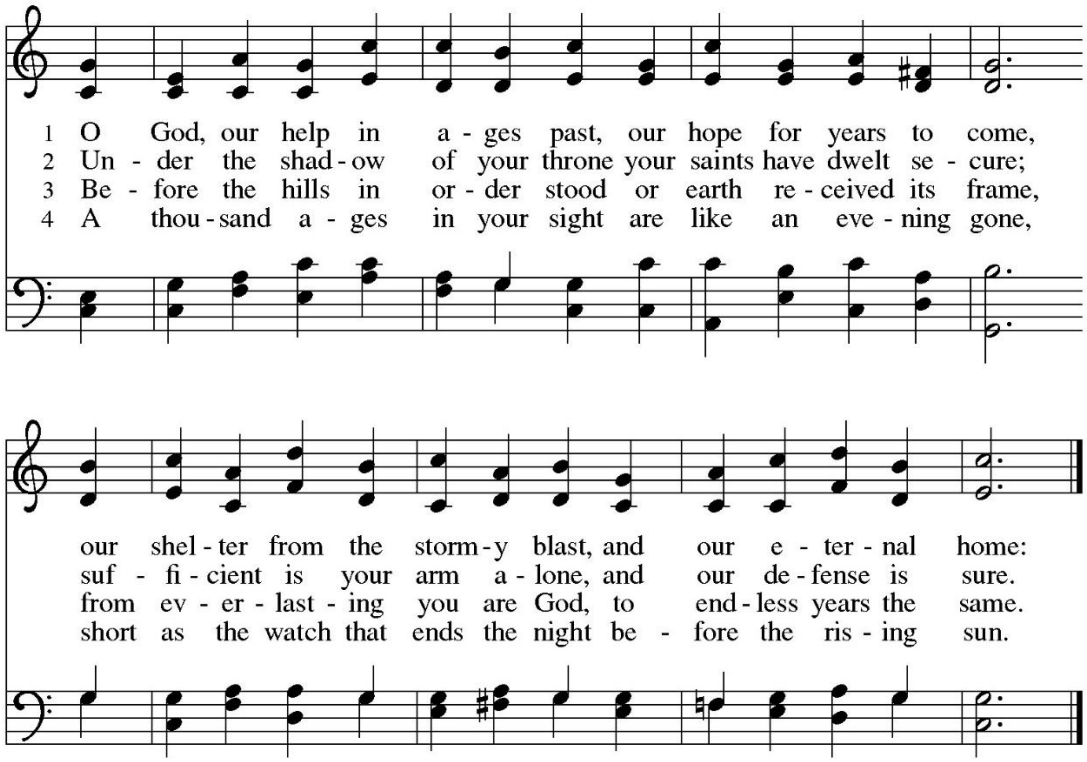
MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG ELW #632, *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we 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!

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.


Kids' Cue

Respond with loud joy.

POSTLUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* George Th. Miles

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Arndt
Director of Music Ministries:	Deacon Ruth Anderson
Ushers/Greeter:	Susan Hendrickson, Sharon Bolz
Lector:	Kate Gregg
Altar Guild:	Denise Miller
Communion Assistants:	David Belcher, Karen Zanol
Tech:	Adam Dunbar

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A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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Acknowledgements

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Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910. P.D. Music: North American, 19th cent. P.D.

Psalm 90 Text and Music: Hal H. Hopson © 1988 Hope Publishing Company. Psalm Text: from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Tone: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. All rights reserved.

O Christ the Same Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024 © 1984 and arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Music: Irish tune, arr. John Barnard, b. 1948. P.D.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. P.D. Music: William Croft, 1678-1727. P.D.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. James Aalgaard	Pastor	pastor@glcwen.org
Deacon Ruth Anderson	Director of Music Ministries	deacon@glcwen.org
Jen Pearson-Gale	Office Administrator	office@glcwen.org
Ann Martinson-Bartlett	Office Assistant	

Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee WA 98801
509-663-2189
www.glcwen.org