Messiah Lutheran Church

Valdosta, Georgia

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Pastor Stephen Wareham
MessiahVLDPastor@gmail.com

Sunday, November 8th, 2026



"We have found the Messiah" *John 1: 41b*

Welcome

We are pleased to meet you and have you visit us today!
Please sign our Guest Book, located in the church entryway (Narthex), as well as the attendance sheet, which can be found in the red folder in each pew. Please let us know how we can assist you in any way.

- **RESTROOMS** *are located in the Narthex.*

- **QUIET BAGS** are available in the Narthex for older children. We also offer a children's bulletin for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

- **QUIET/CALMING ROOM** *and a changing table are located near the Fellowship Hall (through the accordion doors behind the choir).*

- **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all baptized and prepared Christians who believe Christ is truly present with us in this meal. Trusting in the promises of his Word, "—given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," they intend to grow in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit working through this means of grace toward a more committed life with Jesus and His Church.*

- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** *Please extend your hand to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Communion Assistant follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup on the communion rail rack. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."*

- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

Sundays at 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall**.
Sundays at 9:30 am: Sunday School: Grades 4th & 5th in the **Pine Tree House.**
Sundays at 9:15 am: Sunday School: Grades 6th – 12th in the **Pine Tree House**.
Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall.**
Tuesday 12:00 pm: Women's Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House**.
Tuesday 6:00 pm: Pastor's Men's Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House.**

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday
Divine Service Setting Two

The Mission of Messiah Lutheran is to grow in our relationship with God through worship, education, and service, while sharing Christ's peace and fellowship with all.

AS WE GATHER

"[13]Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:13

It can feel like the wait for the return of Jesus lasts forever. It can be tempting, while we wait, to lapse in our vigil. To, just for a little while, allow ourselves to be distracted by the world and all its temptations. But we don't know when Jesus is coming back! It could be years from now or tomorrow, and if we want to be invited into His great wedding feast, celebrating with all believers, we must hold to our faith and keep it lit always.

PRELUDE & PERSONAL DEVOTION *(Quiet Please)*

+Confession and Absolution+

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

EXHORTATION *LSB 151*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS *LSB 151*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION *LSB 151*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

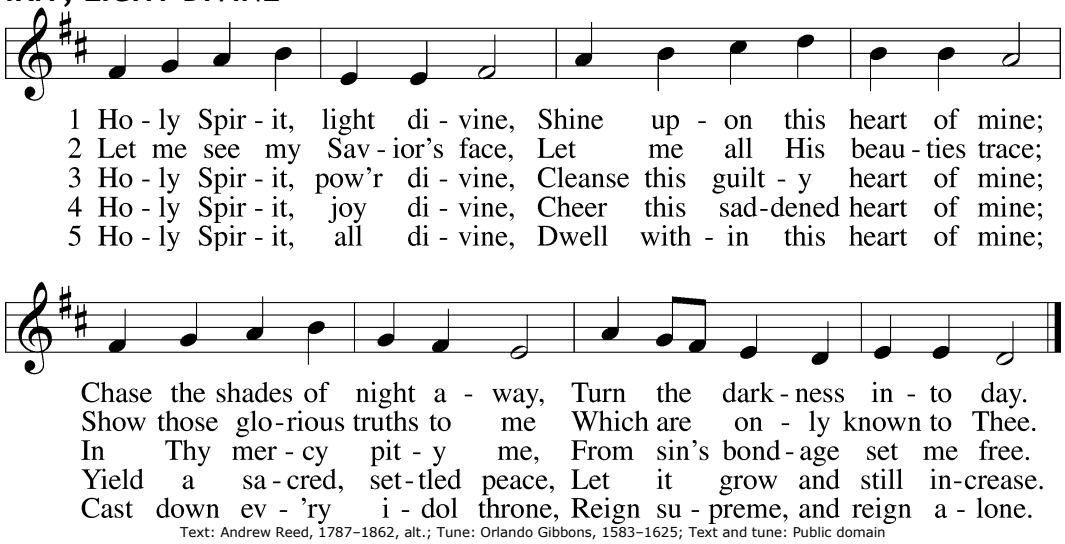
C **Amen.**

SHARING PEACE:

Please extend the hand of fellowship to your neighbors with the words:
"The peace of the Lord."

+Service of the Word+

ENTRANCE HYMN
496 HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE



Text: Andrew Reed, 1787–1862, alt.; Tune: Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625; Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE *LSB 168*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.

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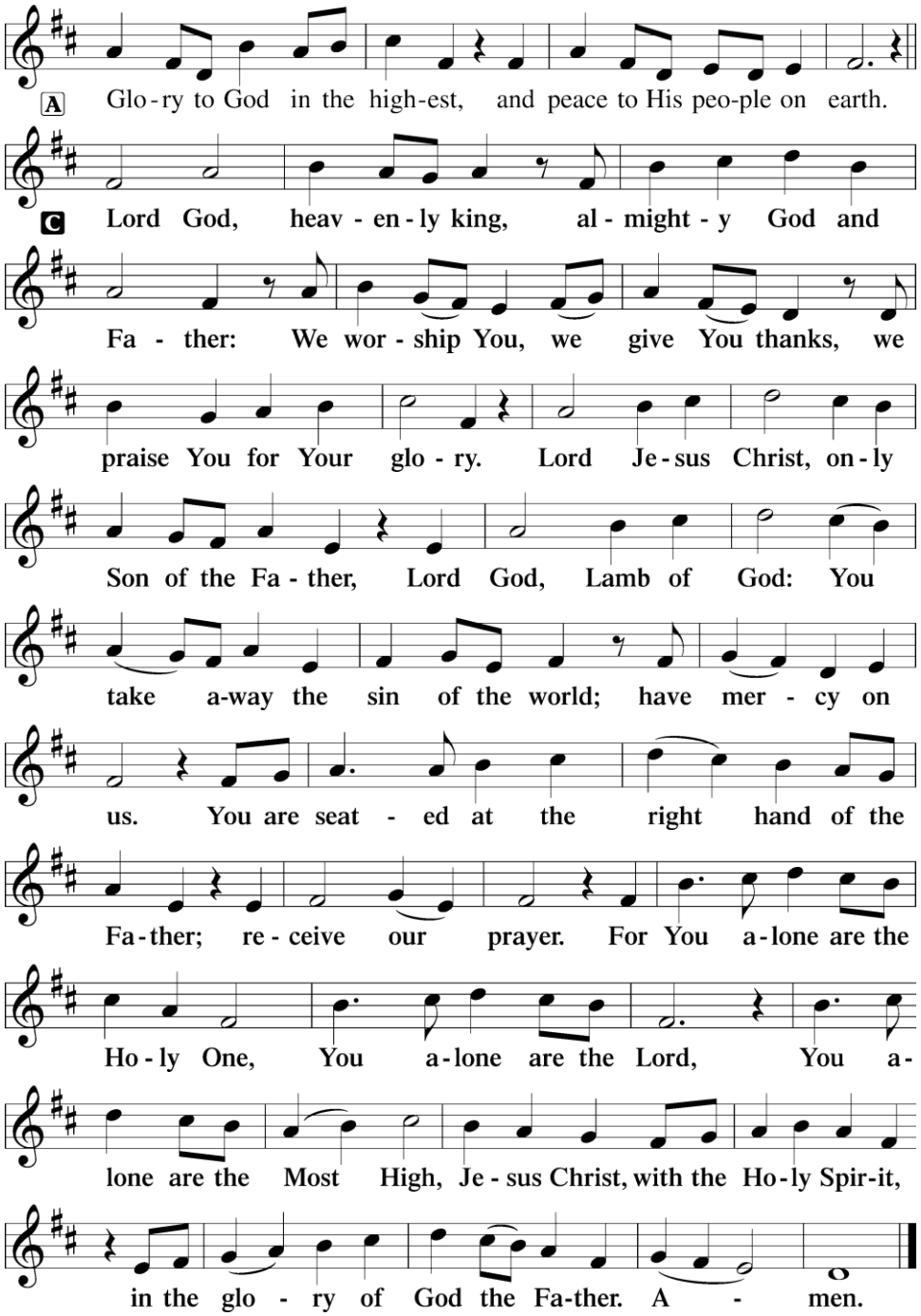
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 170*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18–24*

[18]Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,
[19]as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.
[20]Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
[21]"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
[22]Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.
[23]Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
[24]But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*
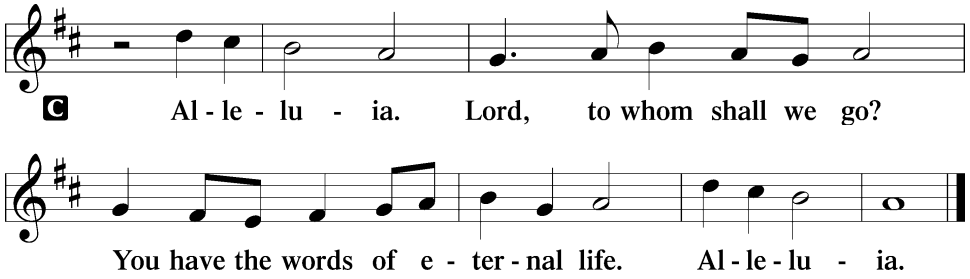
[13]But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [15]For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16]For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 173*



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8]And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10]And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11]Afterward

the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' [13]Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
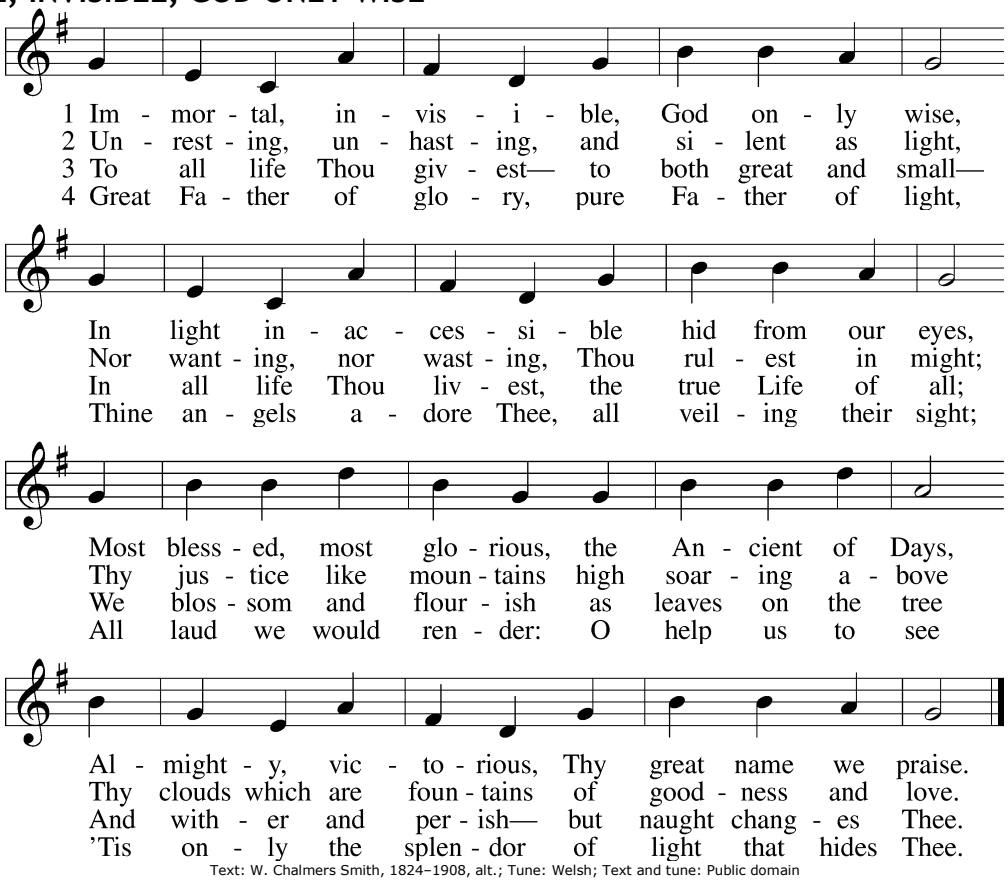
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

802 IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE



Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.; Tune: Welsh; Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON **PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM**

Stand

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

I 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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.

I 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. I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the

forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Almighty God, keep us in constant readiness for Christ's coming through the pure teaching of Your Holy Word, that we may remain steadfast in the faith until Your Son returns in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all faithfulness, remember those who once followed You and have now wandered from the faith. Restore to them the wisdom of repentance and faith, that they may return to Your goodness while there is still time. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, give courage to all pastors as they preach and teach the Word, that all who hear may believe and that, believing, they may live in righteousness and godliness until the day Christ returns as Judge and Lord of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You bestow favor and honor and withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. Bless parents and those who teach children Your ways, that generations to come would love Your promises, walk in Your truth and dwell in Your house. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous God, You despise corruption and command justice. Embolden our rulers and all in authority to enact and defend measures that preserve peace and provide justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, show mercy to those who cry aloud as they await Your Son's coming in glory. Answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope. Make them confident in Christ, who will raise His people on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Your Son will descend from heaven with a cry of command, raise those who have fallen asleep and deliver us to Your kingdom of glory. Until that day, strengthen us by His body and blood and prepare us for His coming in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of life, You comfort us so that those who die in the faith are only sleeping. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to the saints who now rest from their labors, and sustain us through every grief in the hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit
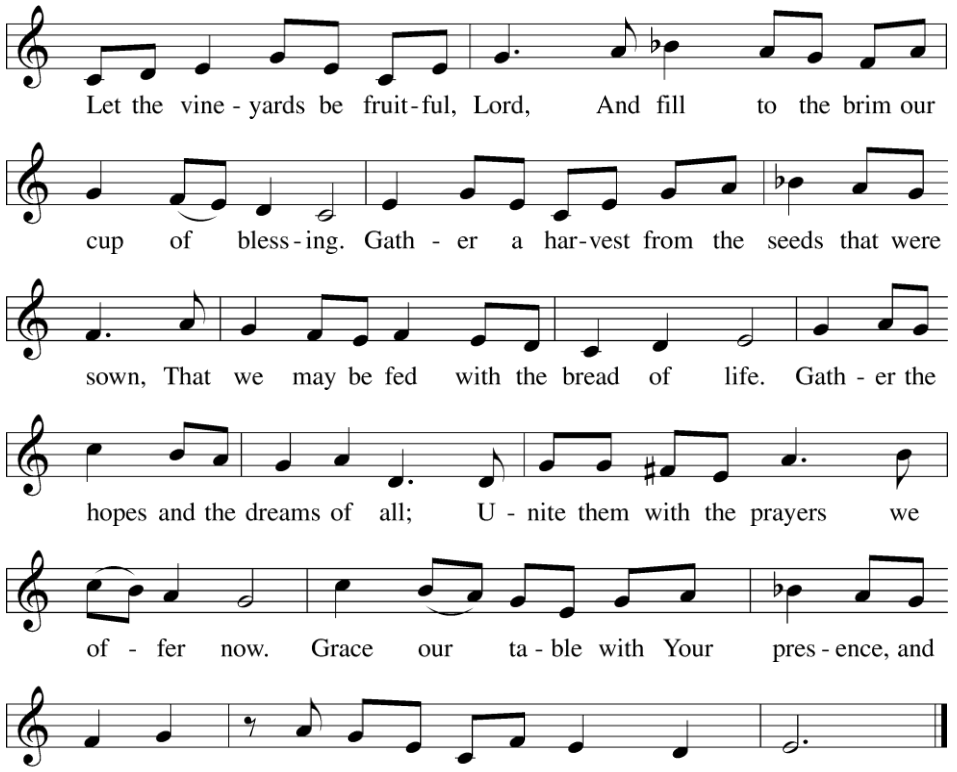
OFFERING

If you'd like to give electronically with your offering, please see the back of the bulletin for details on donating through Zelle or Thrivent.

Stand

OFFERTORY

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80; Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010; Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

+Service of the Sacrament+

PREFACE

LSB 177

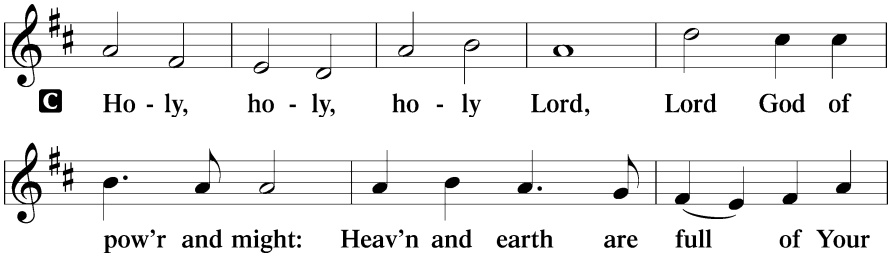
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

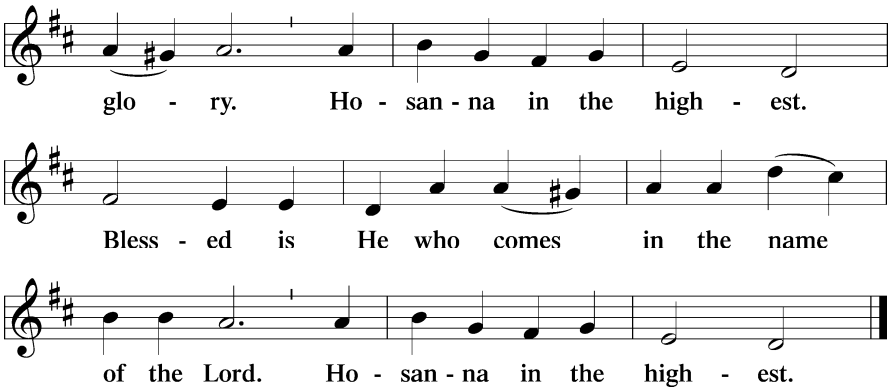
PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *LSB 178*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

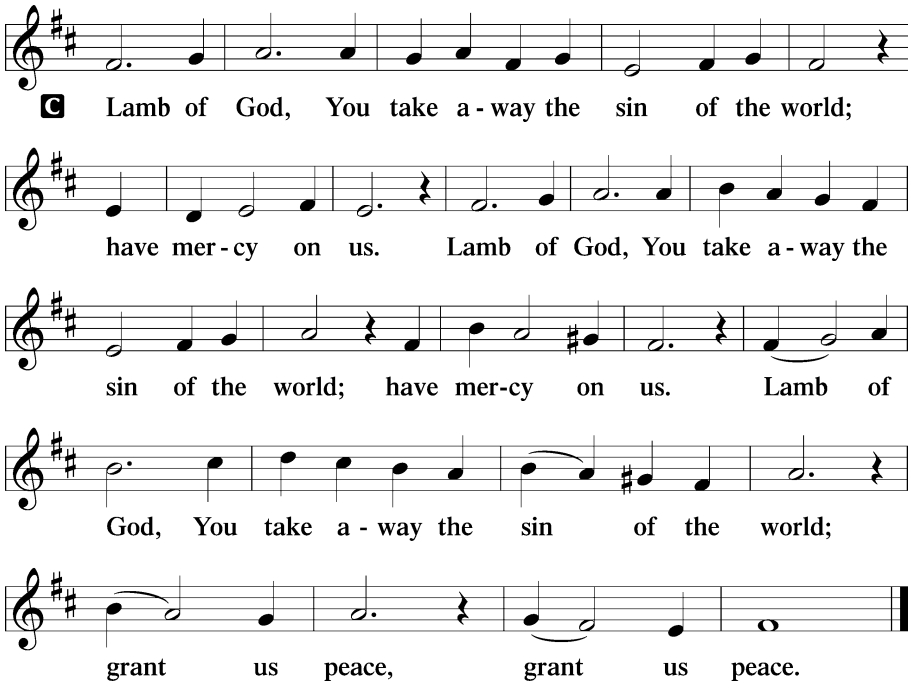
C ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

PAX DOMINI *LSB 180*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

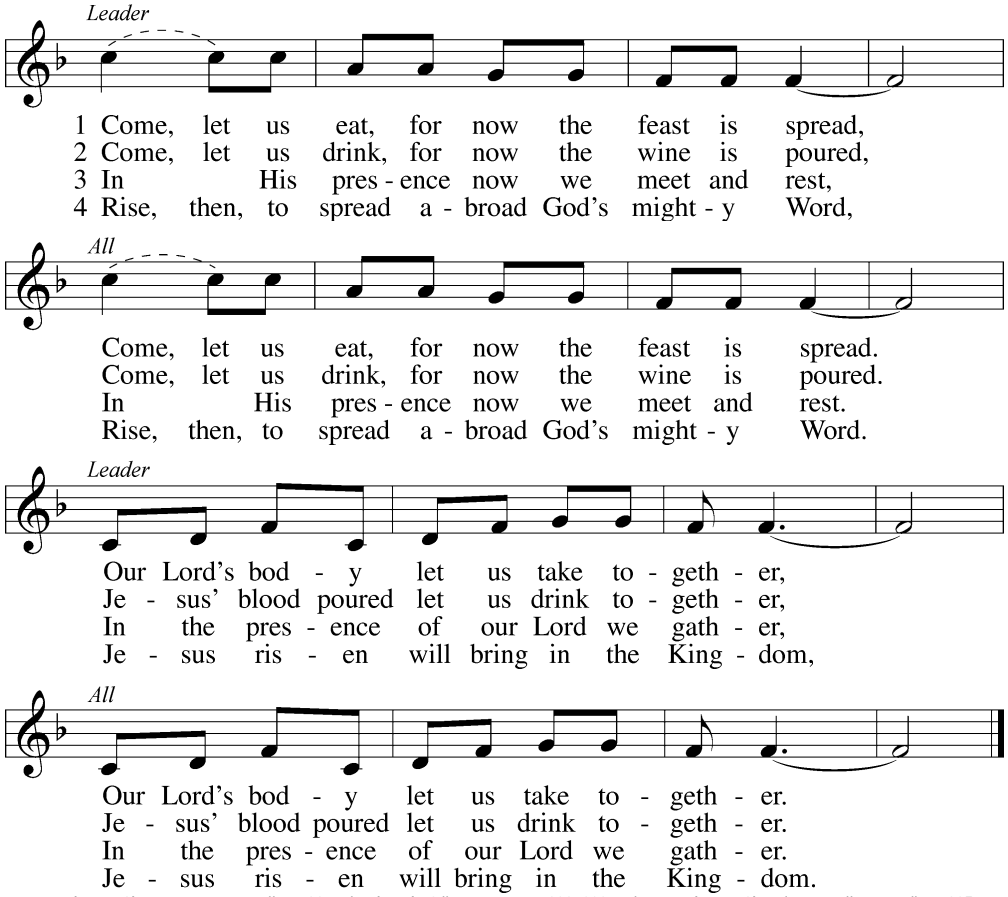
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*
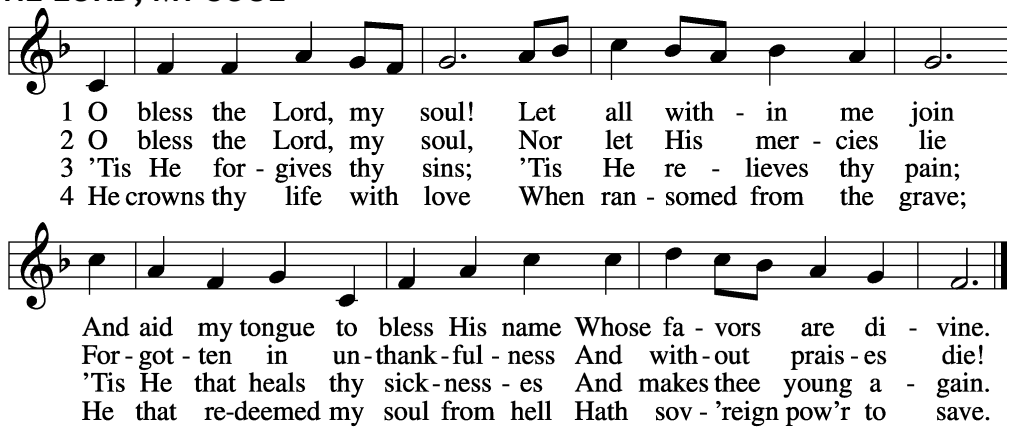


Sit

DISTRIBUTION
626 COME, LET US EAT



Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Margaret D. Miller, 1927, alt.; (st. 4): Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024, alt.; Text (sts. 1–3) and tune: Billema Kwillia, 1925
Text (st. 4): © 1972 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972; Text (sts. 1–3) and tune: © Lutheran World Federation. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

814 O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL



VERSE 5

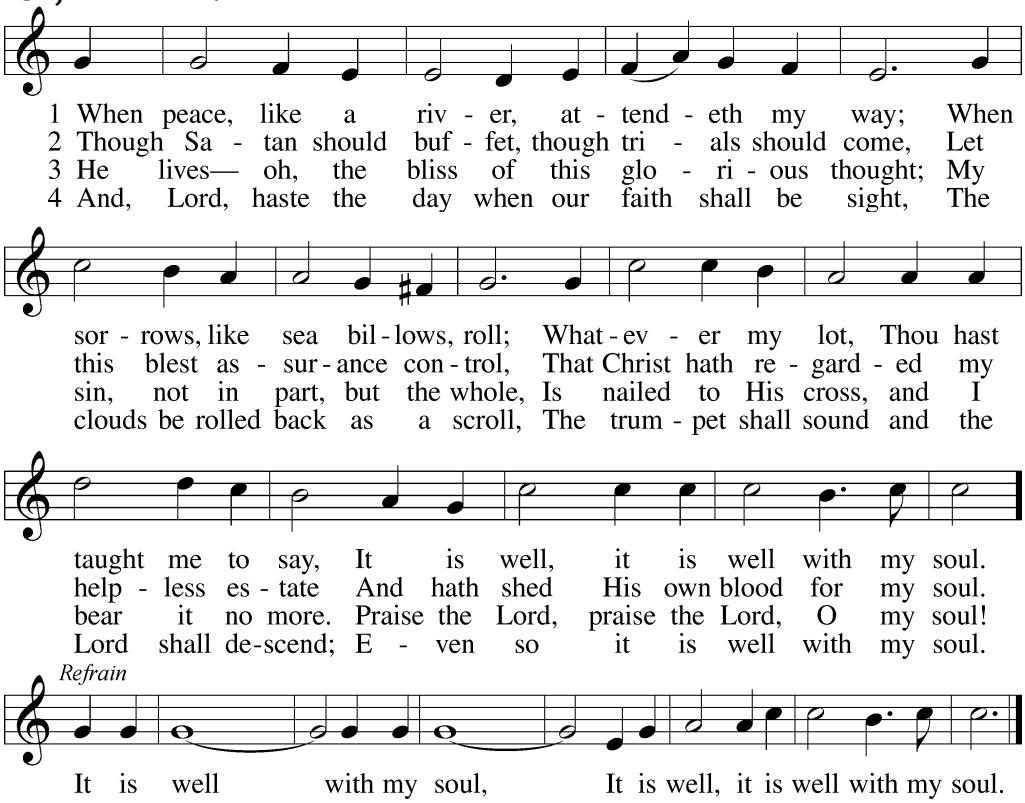
He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'rers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

VERSE 6

His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76; Text and tune: Public domain

763 WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER



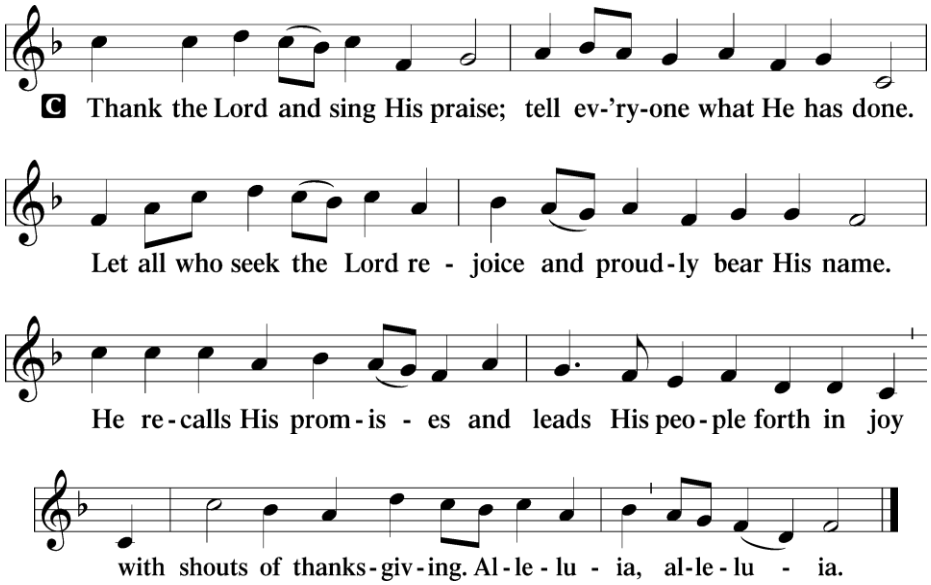
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.; Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



POST COMMUNION CANTICLE
THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

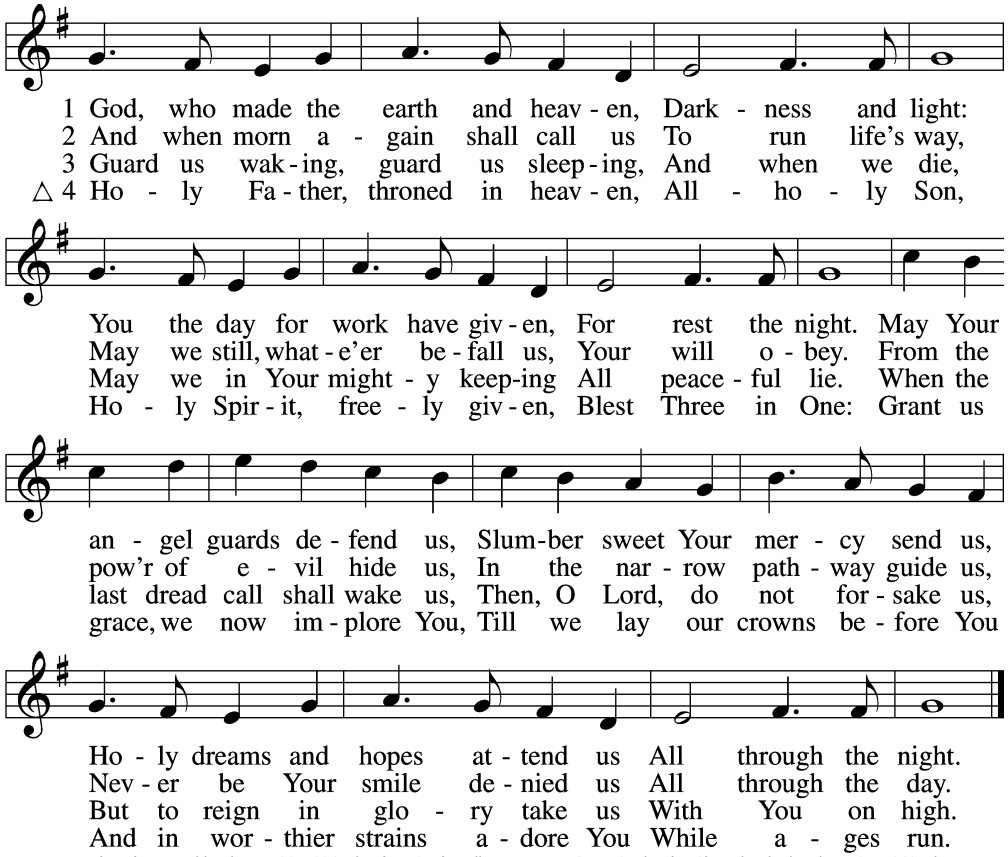
BENEDICTION

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN
877 GOD, WHO MADE THE EARTH AND HEAVEN



Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt.
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 8st: Johannes von Staupitz – Luther's Father Confessor
Monday, Nov. 9th: Martin Chemnitz – Pastor & Confessor
Wednesday, Nov. 11th: Martin of Tours – Pastor
Saturday, Nov. 14th: Emperor Justinian – Christian Ruler & Confessor of Christ

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7 – 16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 11; Matthew 25:14 – 30

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

† THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN †

TUES	**10:00**	**'Tuesdays with the Pastor' Bible Study**
	12:00	**Ladies Potluck Bible Study**
	6:00	**Mens Potluck Bible Study**
WED	**11 – 2**	**Food Pantry – *DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!***
THURS	**9 – 12**	**Quilter's Group with Devotional**
	6:00	**Messiah Singers Practice**

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"But the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps." ***Matthew 25:4***

Why did they take flasks of oil with them? Because they listened to the Bridegroom's words and believed what He said. Our actions always start with and flow from our beliefs. What do your actions in the realm of stewardship say about what you believe?

Fiscal 2026-27 YTD Income v. Expenses - Week 09		
Income Fisccal YTD (includes designated gifts)	$	30,512.02
Expenses Fiscal YTD	$	38,303.49
Variance Fiscal YTD*	$	(7,791.47)
Funds Collected to date vs. Budget Plan	$	28,190.52
Budget Planned Goal Fiscal YTD	$	39,093.78
Above/Below Goal to Date	$	(10,903.26)
includes $5,285.84 in emergency repairs for sound system.		

Give Online to Messiah! Scan code with your phone & follow directions.

A simple scan is all we need,
To plant the love, to sow the seed.
With every gift, we rise above,
Spreading peace and endless love.

Zelle
MessiahVLDtreasurer@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THRIVENT GIVING DAY – DECEMBER 1st



Tuesday, December 1st is Thrivent Giving Day, and your generosity could go even further in supporting Messiah Lutheran Church!

Thrivent will provide up to $3 million in matching funds for eligible online donations made through its giving platform that day. Eligible gifts may receive a match of up to $1 for every $1 donated.

To qualify, donations must be made through Thrivent's giving platform on December 1st. Get ready to make your generosity go further!

Thank you for supporting Messiah
and the work we do together!

WANT TO HELP BEHIND THE SCENES? CHURCH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

You don't need to know everything. You just need to care about our church and be willing to serve. **WHERE COULD YOU SERVE?**

Terms are ending on December 31st, and elections will be held in mid-December.

VICE PRESIDENT
Assist the President and keep Council records and minutes organized.

STEWARDSHIP
Help encourage faithful use of the time, talents, and resources God has given us.

TREASURER
Help oversee the church's finances and financial reporting.

WORSHIP
Help coordinate and support the many details that make worship run smoothly.

Current vacant positions are:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Help support Sunday School, Bible studies, and opportunities to learn and grow.

EVANGELISM
Help us welcome others and share the love of Christ with our community.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.
Your time. Your talents. Your willingness.
Together, we can serve Messiah and our community.
Ask Pastor Wareham or Connie DiMarco how you can get involved!



WE NEED YOU! HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help make worship happen! You don't have to know it all!
Training and instructions are provided for every position. 💚

📖 **LECTOR**
Read the Scripture lessons during worship.

🍷 **COMMUNION ASSISTANT**
Help serve Holy Communion alongside the pastor.

🌿 **ALTAR CARE**
Help prepare the altar and Communion before worship.

🕯 **ACOLYTE**
Assist with simple worship tasks such as lighting candles.

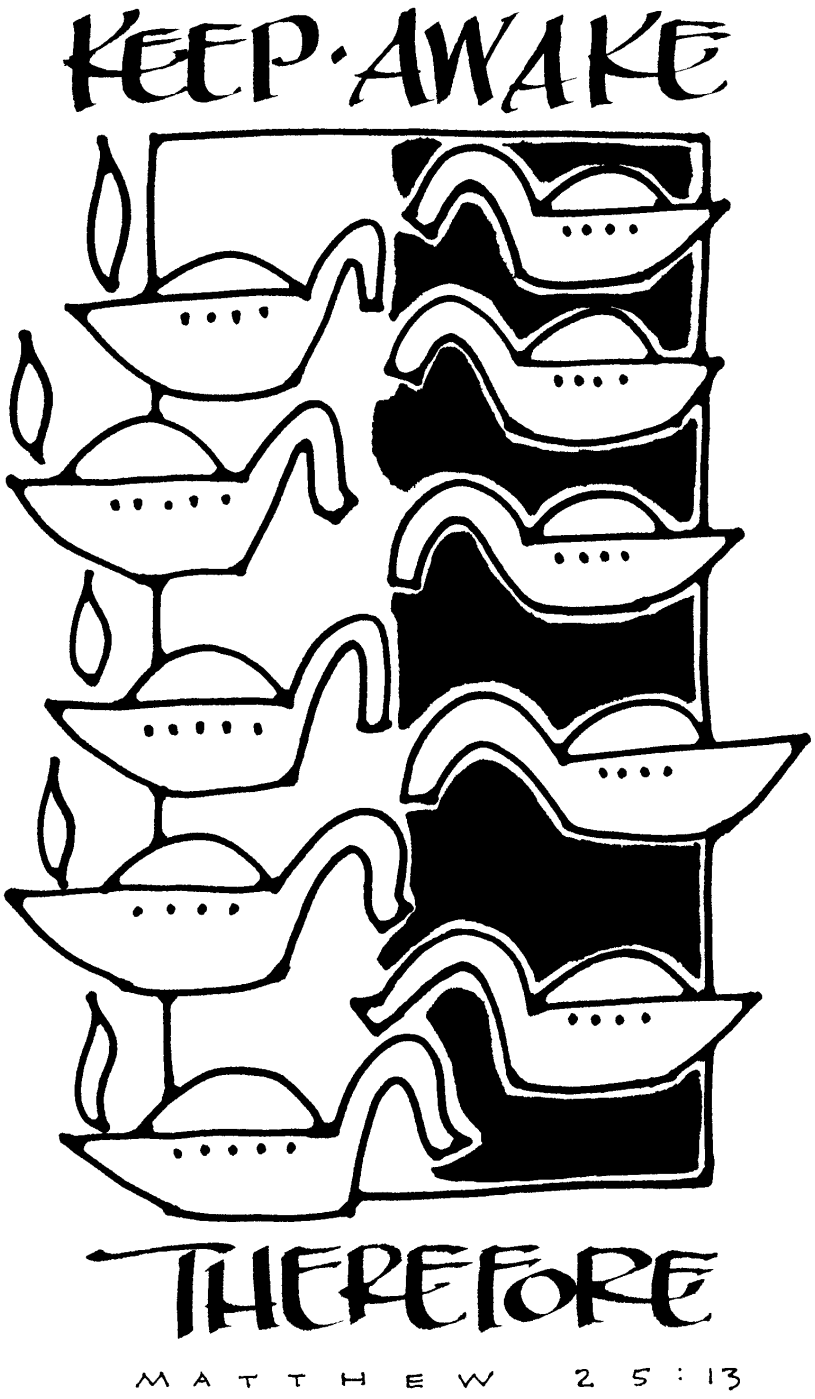
👋 **GREETER**
Welcome people as they arrive and hand out bulletins.

🤝 **USHERS** Welcome worshipers, assist with offering, Communion flow, and other simple worship needs.

💚 YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALL. 💚
Find one place where you can help! Your time. Your talents. Your willingness.
Together, we can serve Messiah and our community. Interested?
Ask Pastor Wareham or Connie DiMarco how you can get involved!

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.




KEEP·AWAKE
THEREFORE
MATTHEW 25:13