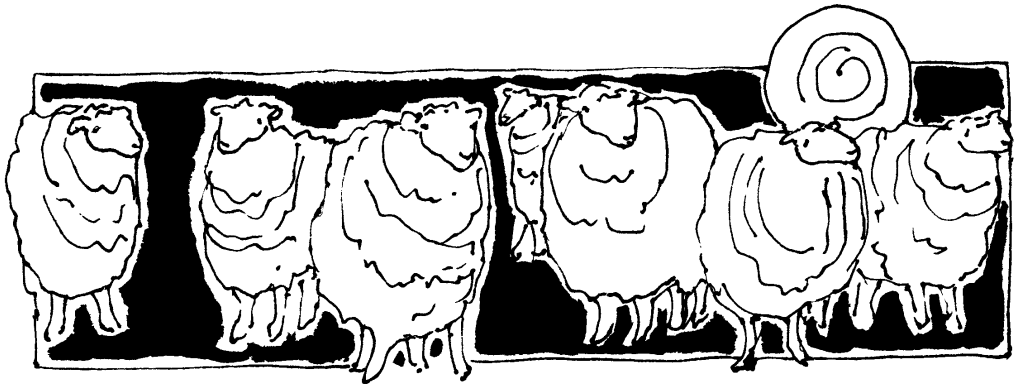
Messiah Lutheran Church

Valdosta, Georgia

500 Baytree Road – messiahluth500@gmail.com
Office: 229-244-0143 Pastor's Cell: 404-951-6336

Pastor Stephen Wareham
MessiahVLDPastor@gmail.com

Sunday, November 22nd, 2026



I WILL SEEK the LOST.
BRING BACK the STRAYED.
BIND UP the INJURED
STRENGTHEN the WEAK

EZEKIEL 34:16

"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 6:00 pm: Pastor's Men's Potluck Bible Study in the **Pine Tree House.**
Tuesday 6:00 pm: Women's Potluck Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Last Sunday of the Church Year
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

"[40]And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" *Matthew 25:40*

Nothing that we do goes unnoticed by God. Good or bad, He sees it all. But God does more than just see it; everything we do to each other we also do to God. When we hurt each other, we hurt our Father as well. But when we love each other, care for each other, support and encourage each other, we do all of those things for Him too, and the reward He has for us is truly great!

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.
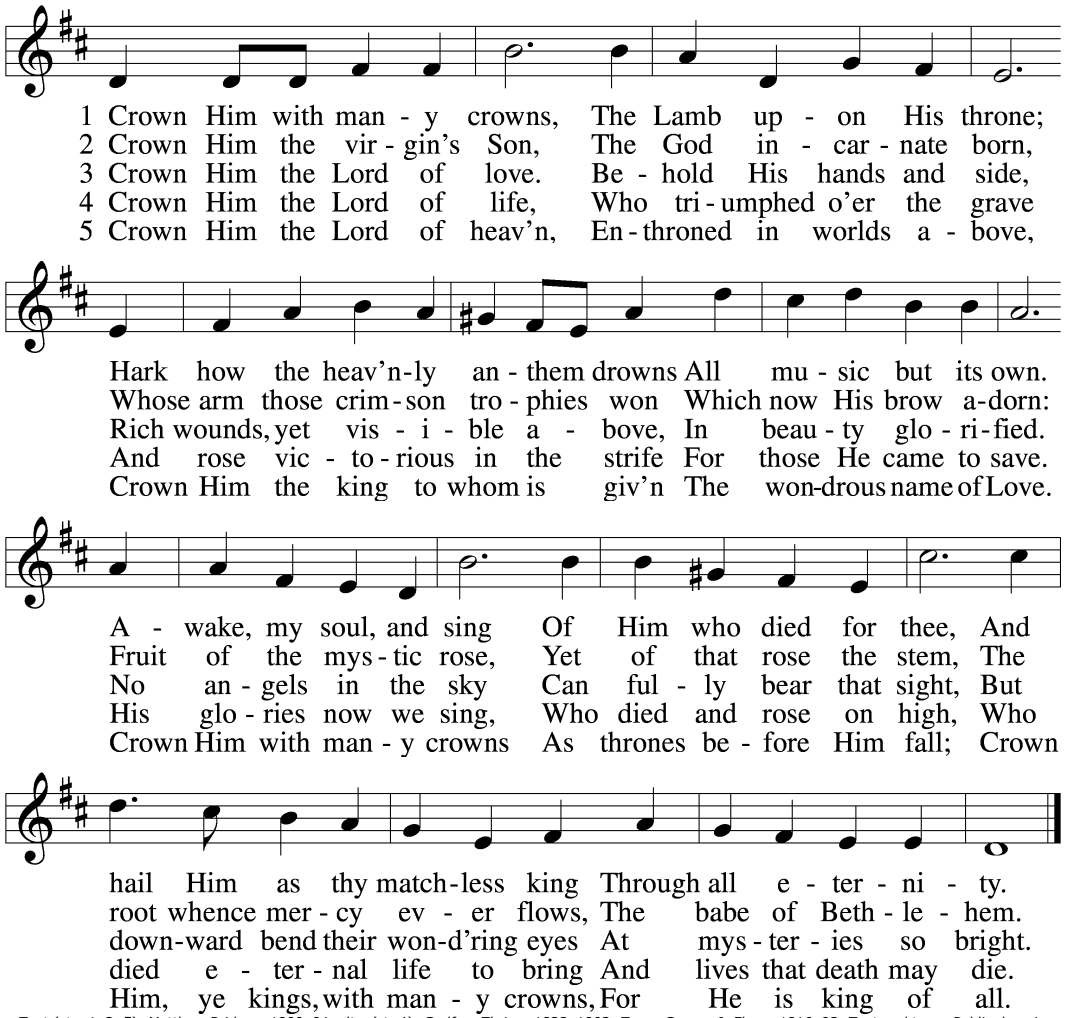
C **Amen.**

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
525 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS



Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93; 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.
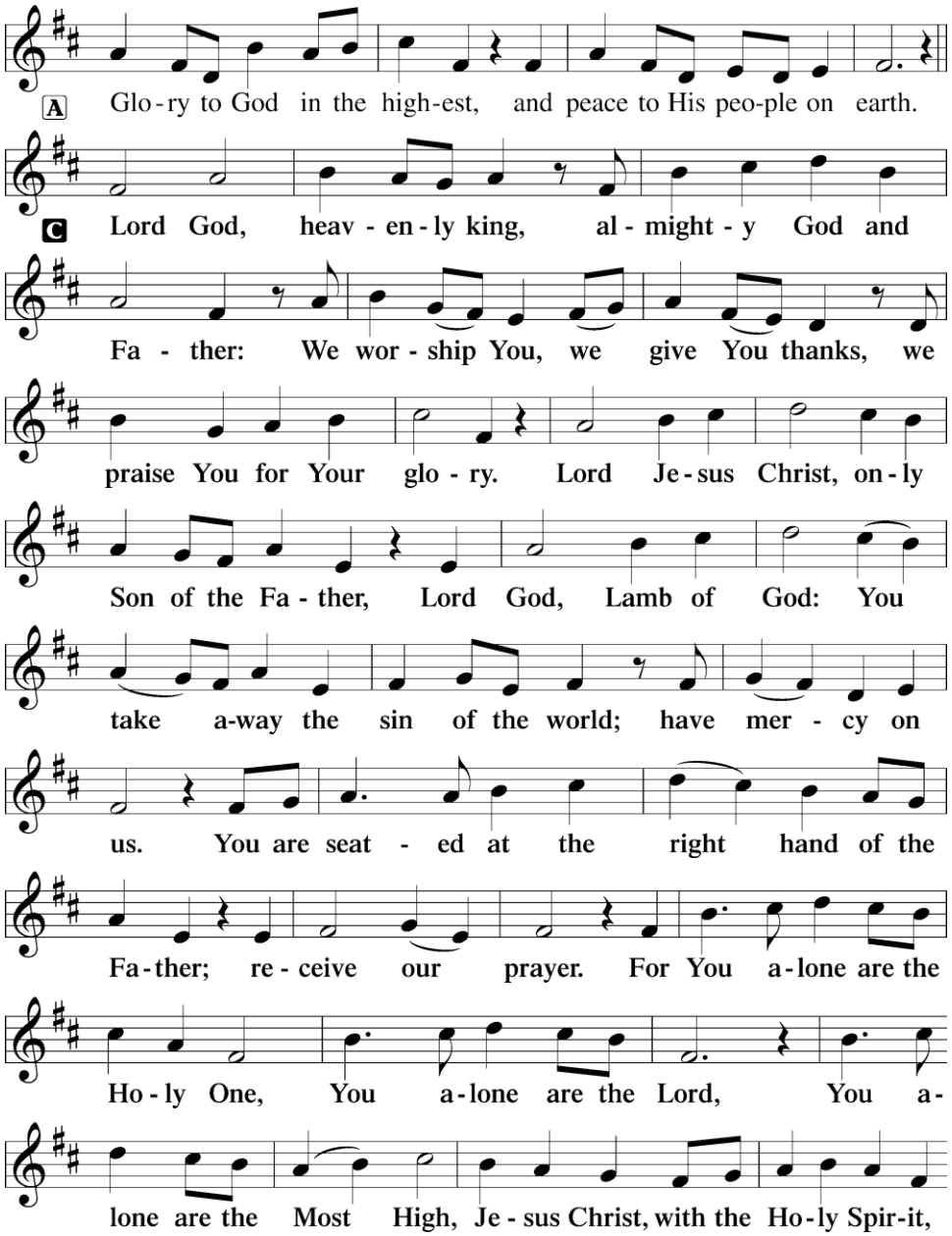
C **Lord, have mercy.**
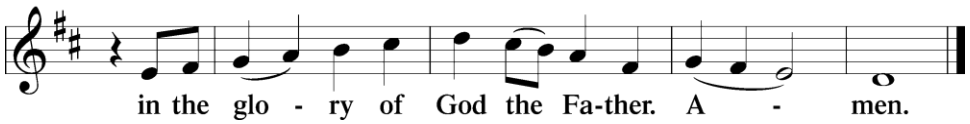
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

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.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

11"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek
them out. 12As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been
scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have
been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13And I will bring them out from the
peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will
feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the
country. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be
their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they
shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself
will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back
the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the
strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice…

20"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak
with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22I will rescue my flock; they shall no
longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23And I will set up over them one
shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am
the LORD; I have spoken."

A This is the Word of the Lord**.**

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen
asleep. 21For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
22For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23But each in his own order:
Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24Then comes the end,
when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every
authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The
last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27For "God has put all things in subjection under his
feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who
put all things in subjection under him. 28When all things are subjected to him, then the Son

himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.
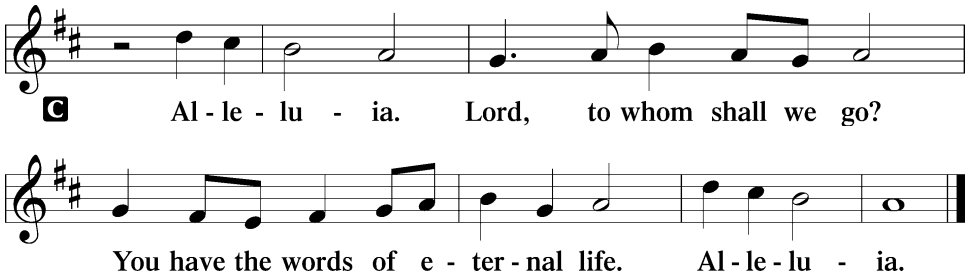
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 173



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–46

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

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

31 [Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will
sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people
one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep
on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you
who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I
was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did
we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a
stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison
and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the
least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared
for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you
gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe
me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when
did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to
you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the
righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

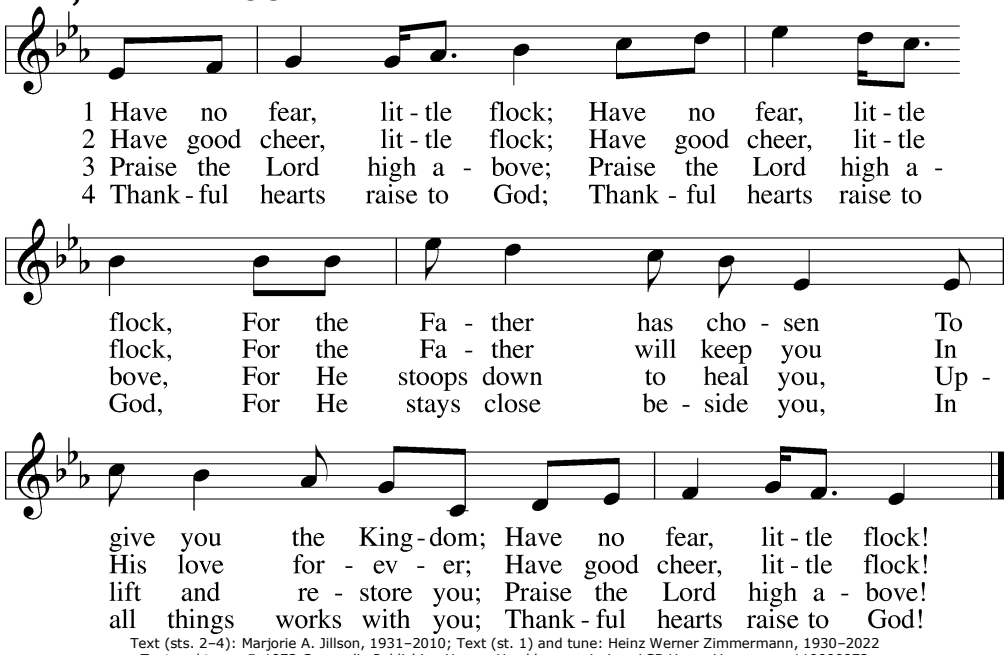
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

735 HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK



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SERMON — PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM

BLESSING OF THE WREATHS

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. O Lord, as we anxiously await Christ's return, grant that we may never tire of inviting others to hear the good news of life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, bring all Your scattered and wandering sheep into Your fold. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous God, we all die in Adam but will be made alive in Christ. Guide our pastors, that they may faithfully proclaim Your Word and we may always look forward to the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, You have subjected all things under Your Son, who gladly subjects Himself to You. Bless the homes of Your people, that parents may train and catechize their children with wisdom and love, and that children may gladly submit and honor their father and mother. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, even as the kingdoms of this world pass away, we pray that You would grant wisdom and protection to all in authority as they carry out their duties. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Great Physician of body and soul, by Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Hold them in Your almighty hands and bring them consolation. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and give us grace to accept and bear our crosses with faith in You, that we would always be prepared to depart this life in faith and come to Your heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of grace, as death came by a man, so by Your Son has come the resurrection of the dead. Endow Your people with penitent hearts at Your table, that they would receive in Your risen Son's body and blood a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father in heaven, with the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we wait with joy for our Lord's triumphant return. Send Him forth, we pray, that He might renew all things according to His gracious promises, and bring us at last to see that kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world. We ask all these things in His name, trusting only in His righteousness; 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

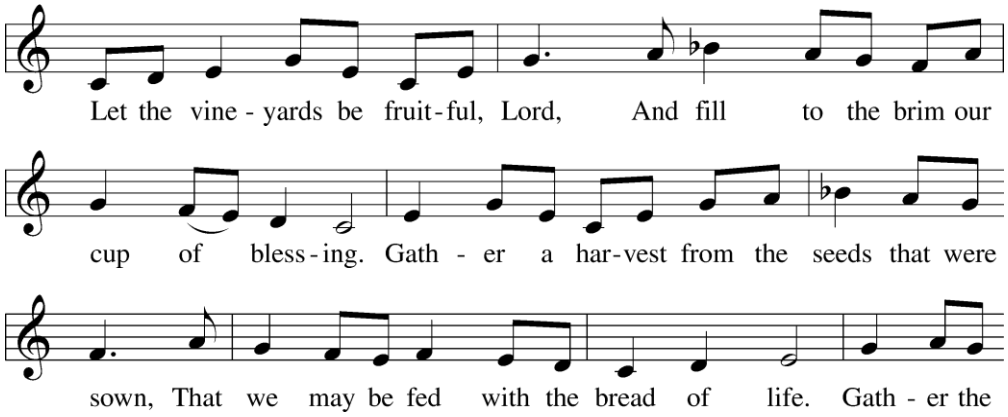
OFFERING

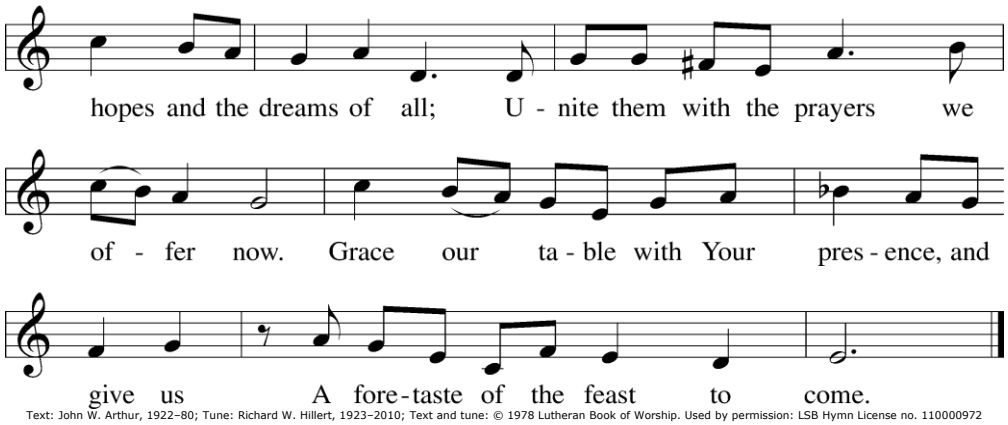
If you'd like to give electronically with your offering, please see the back of the bulletin for details on donating through Zelle or Thrivent.

Stand

OFFERTORY

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL





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+Service of the Sacrament+

PREFACE

LSB 177
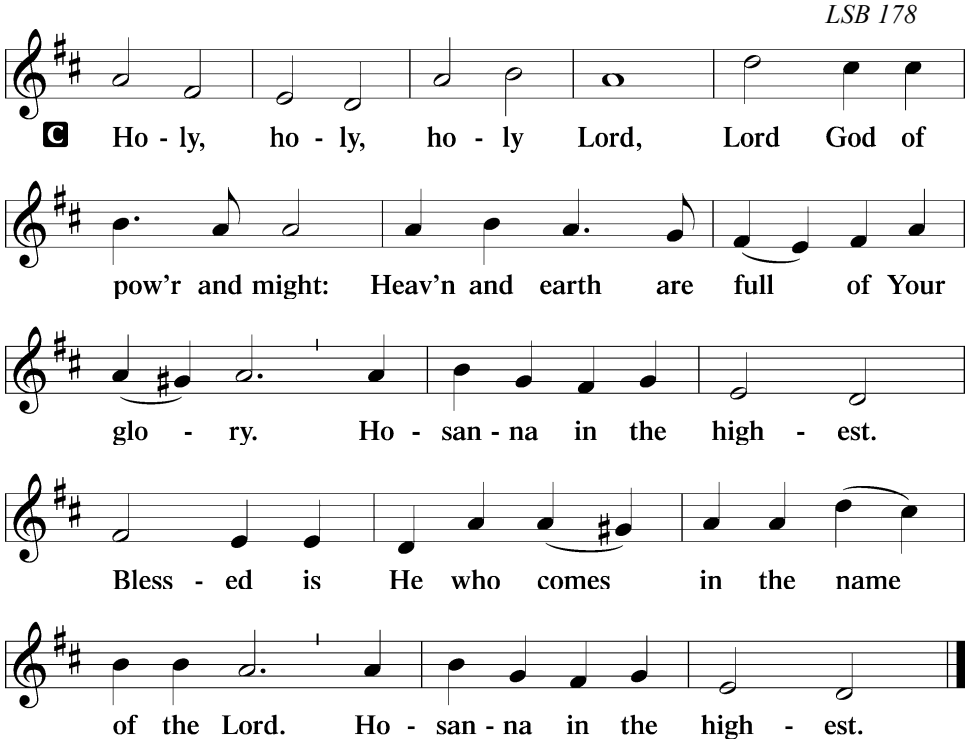
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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

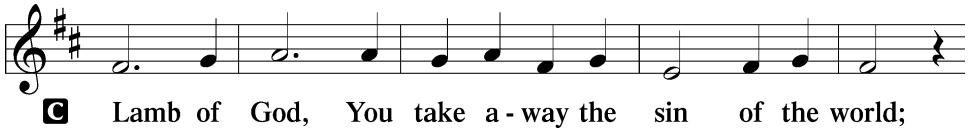
C ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is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

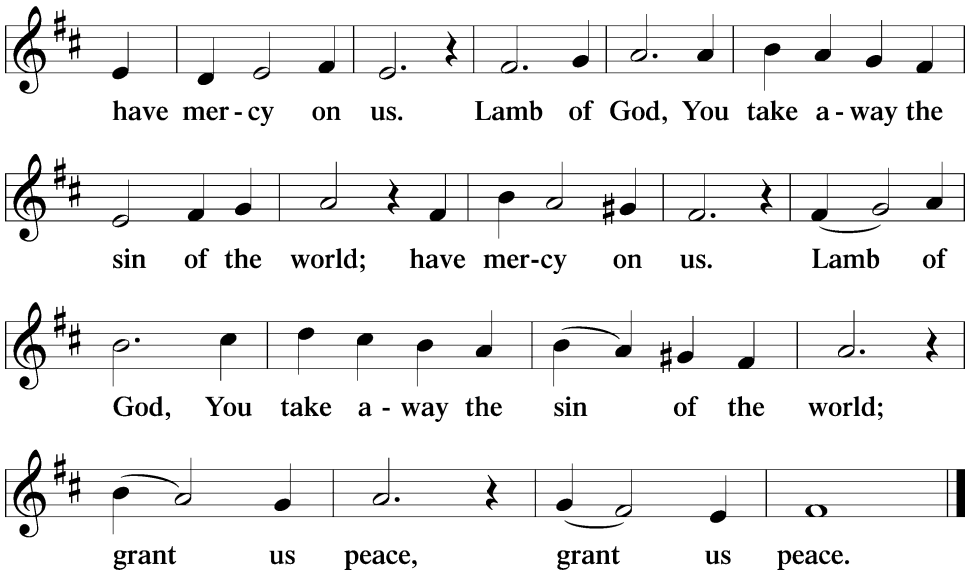
PAX DOMINI *LSB 180*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*
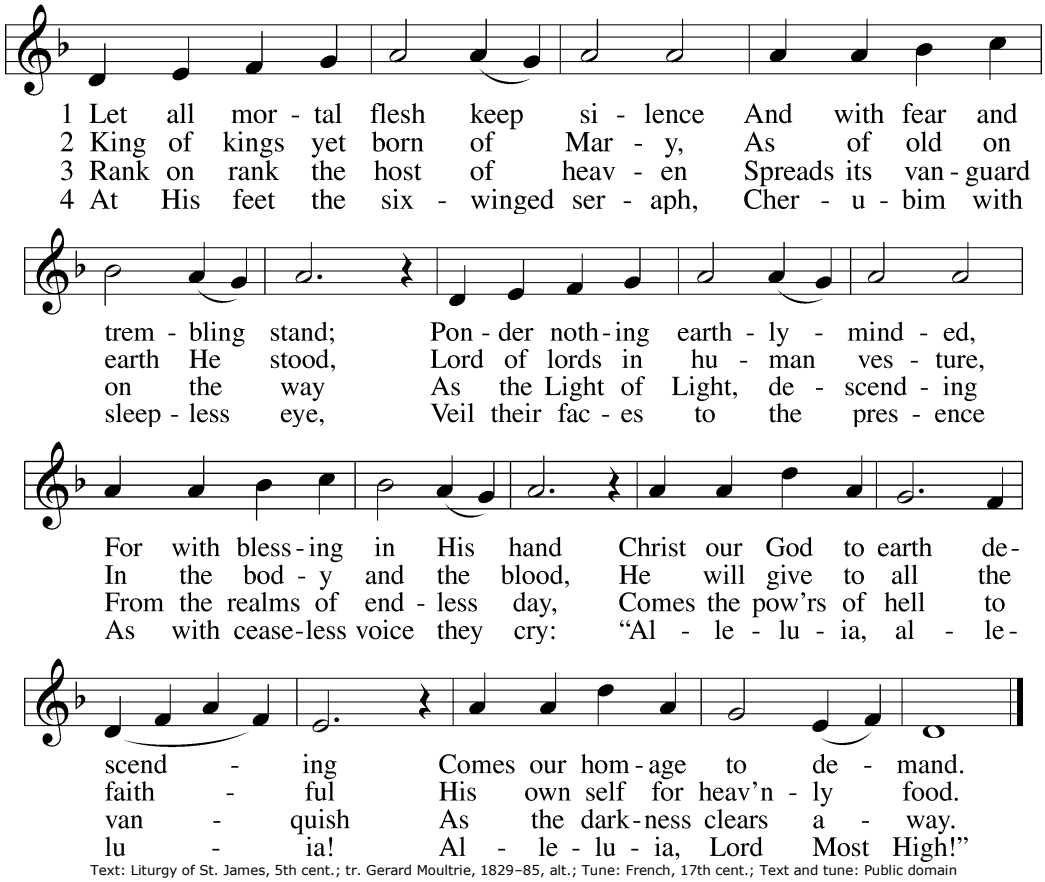




Sit



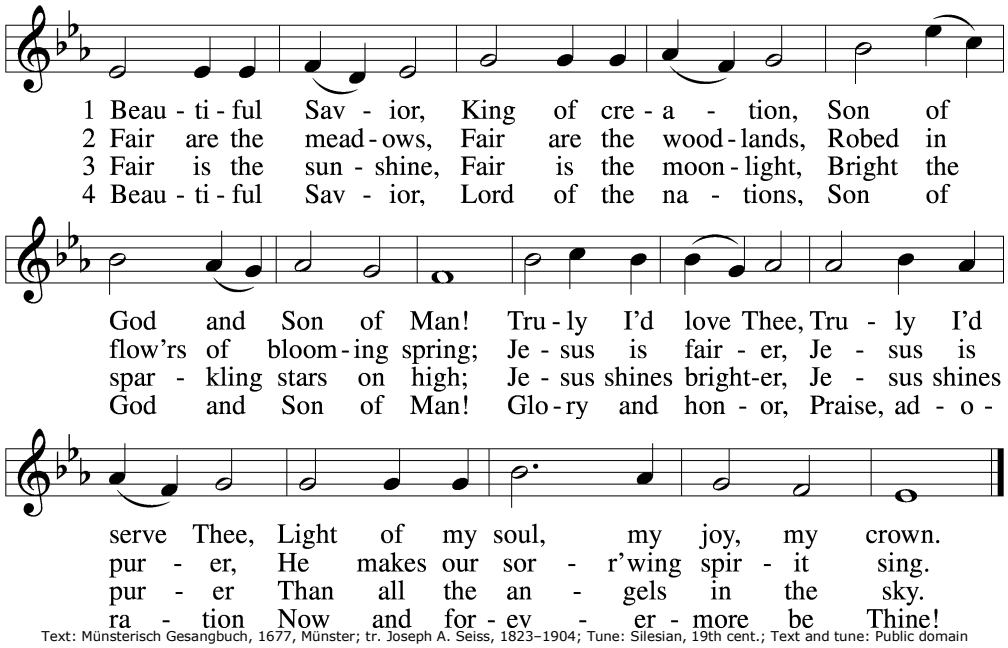
DISTRIBUTION

621 LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE
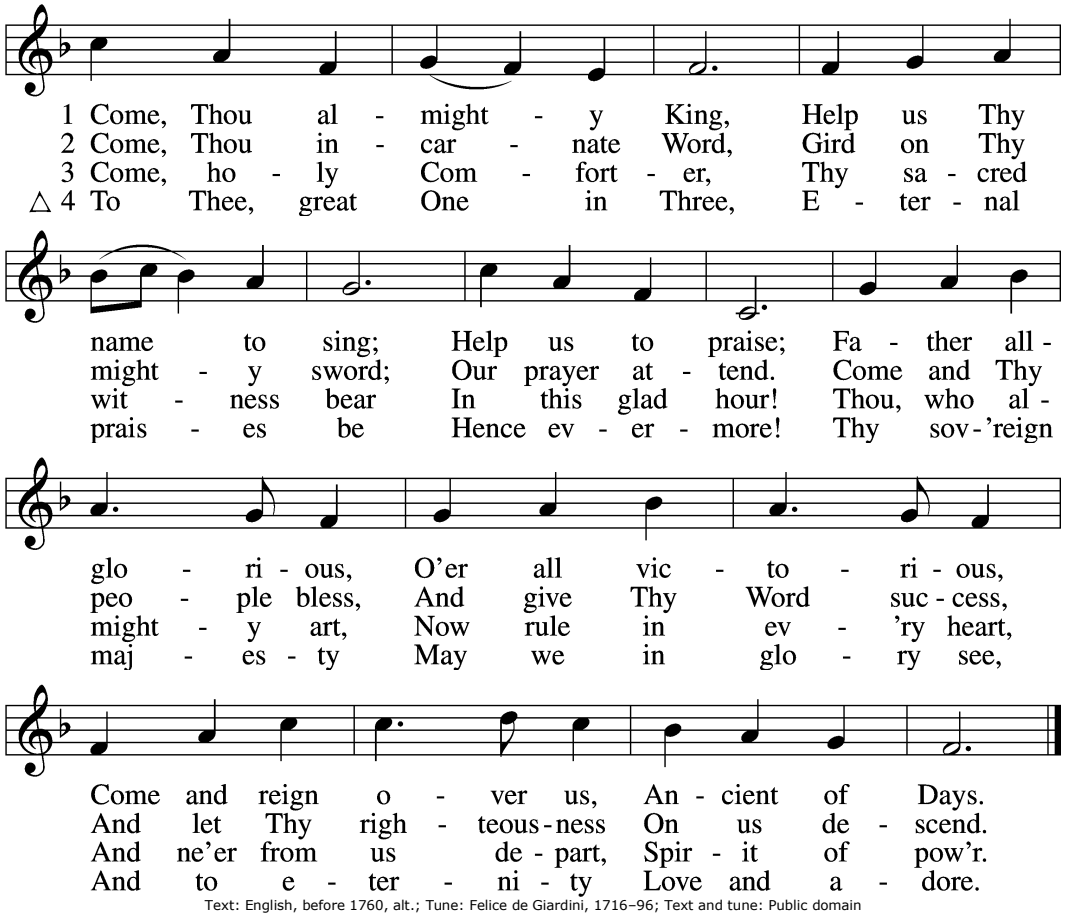


Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.; Tune: French, 17th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR



Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904; Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

905 COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING



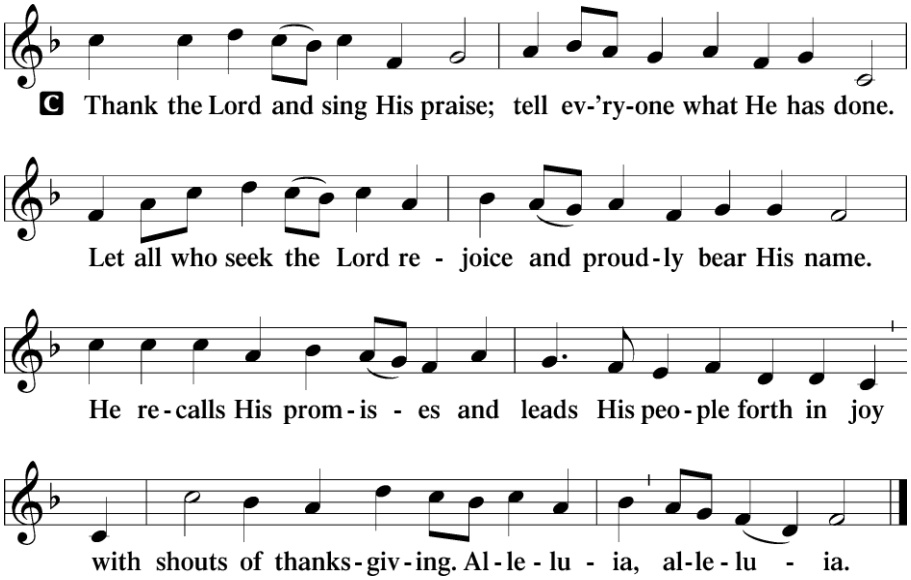
Text: English, before 1760, alt.; Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96; Text and tune: Public domain

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

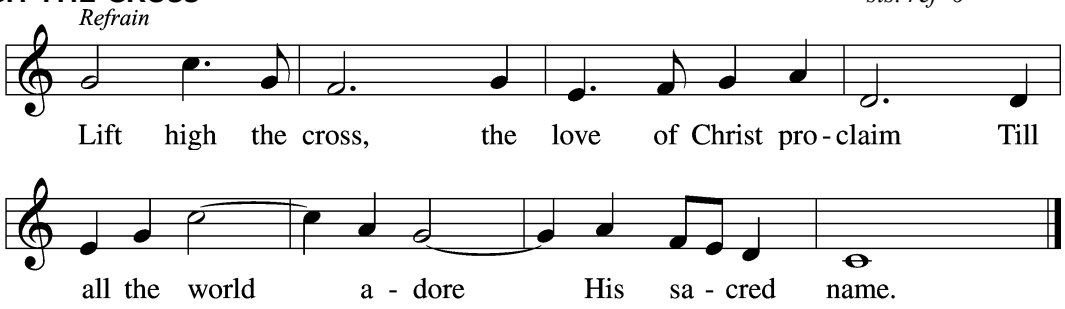
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

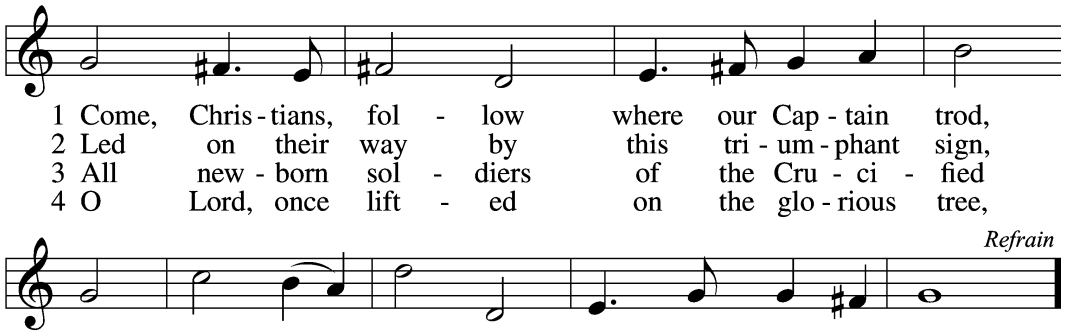
C **Amen.**



CLOSING HYMN
837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

sts. ref–6





VERSE 5

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Refrain

VERSE 6

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.; Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, November 23rd: Clement of Rome – Pastor
Thursday, November 26th: Thanksgiving Day

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1 – 9; 1 Corinthians 1:3 – 9; Mark 13:24 – 37

"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



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Your support makes our future light.
A little gift goes far, you see,
Changing lives in unity.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

🕯 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE 🕯

Join us Sunday, November 29th, for the First Sunday of Advent!

Midweek Advent services will be held on **Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**, with two worship opportunities each day at **12:00 PM and 7:00 PM.**

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th
Worship Services: 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25th
Worship Service: 10:30 AM

We look forward to worshiping together throughout this special season!

🎀 DECKING THE MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH HALLS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, starting at 9:00 AM

Help us decorate Messiah for Christmas! A sign-up sheet will be available on the board in the Narthex beginning **Monday, November 23.** 🤍🎄🤍

Sign up to help, or show up on December 5th. ***Many hands make merry work!***



THUS · SAYS the LORD



I · MYSELF
WILL SEARCH
FOR MY SHEEP

EZEKIEL 34:11