THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, November 8, 2026 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT =PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER
BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES
✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP *service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.*

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)
Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know the thoughts and deeds of which I am ashamed, but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise to serve.

Call to Worship: Marvelous Things
Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him. Psalm 98:1

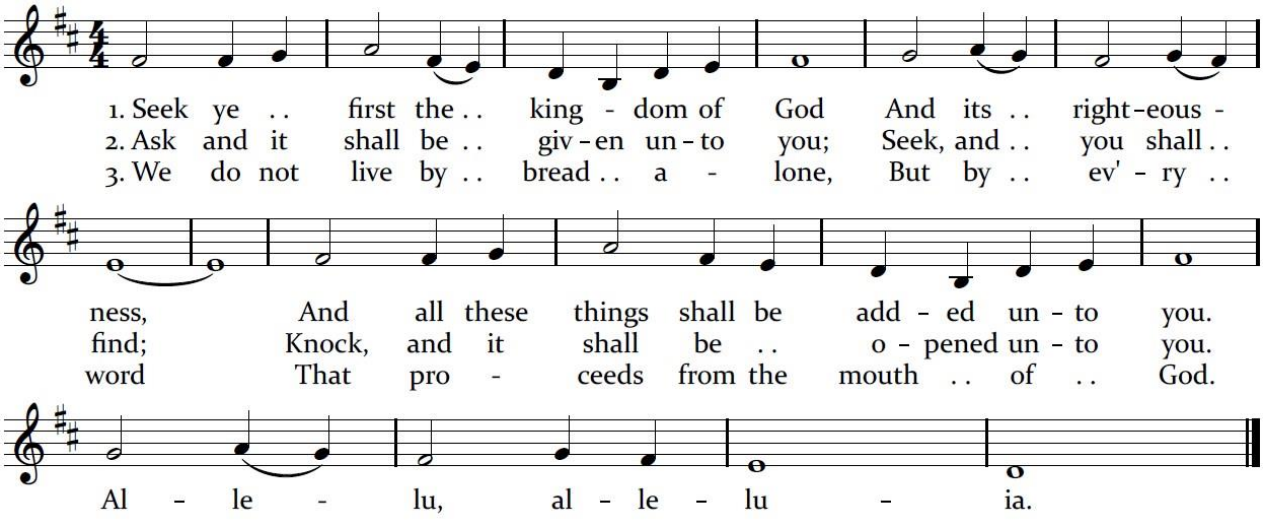
We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvelous things!

When we were walking in darkness
you were there, you were there,
when we were kneeling in weakness
you were there, you were there,
when we drew near feeling worthless
you were there, you were there,
when we were needing forgiveness
you were there, you were there,
when we were searching for your grace
you were there, you were there.

We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvelous things and deserve our worship!

GATHERING HYMN

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God



APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. II Corinthians 13: 13
And also with you.

LITANY OF WELCOME

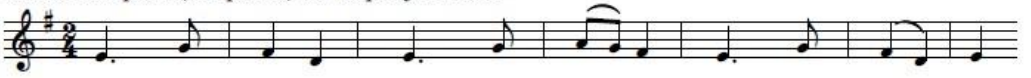
God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?
To act justly; to love mercy;
and to walk humbly with our God. Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,
and anyone who welcomes me
welcomes the One who sent me." Matthew 10: 40
The Spirit says, "Come."
Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come," Revelation 22: 17
for all are welcome here.

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,
to strengthen and sustain us,
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.
Let us worship God now
With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,
With works that bring forth God's powerful justice,
And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence,
Now and always,
Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Kyrie and Antiphon I (Nov. 8)

Cantor: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...

All: **Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the...

Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

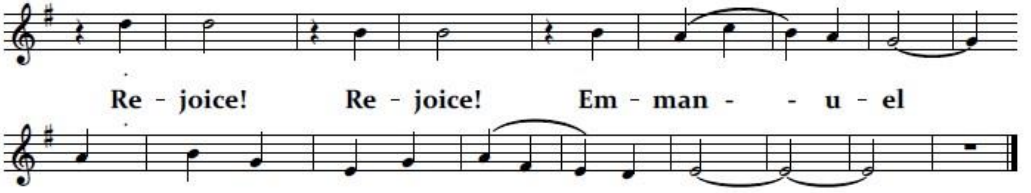
For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the...

Lord, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, O God...

A - - men.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go...



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - - ra - el.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray...

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Children's Message Pastor Steven

Nursery provided for children 3 years of age and under. Activity bags are provided in Narthex for children remaining during worship.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 18:9-24

A reading from Exodus.

9 Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in delivering them from
the Egyptians.
10 Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you from the Egyptians and
from Pharaoh. 11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because he delivered
the people from the Egyptians, when they dealt arrogantly with them." 12 And Jethro,
Moses's father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron came
with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses's father-in-law in the presence of God.
13 The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him
from morning until evening. 14 When Moses's father-in-law saw all that he was doing for
the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone,
while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" 15 Moses said to his
father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 When they have a
dispute, they come to me, and I decide between one person and another, and I make
known to them the statutes and instructions of God." 17 Moses's father-in-law said to him,
"What you are doing is not good. 18 You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these
people with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. 19 Now listen to
me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You should represent the people before
God and bring their cases to God. 20 Teach them the statutes and instructions and make
known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do. 21 You should also

look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. [22] Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you but decide every minor case themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. [23] If you do this and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people will go to their homes in peace."

[24] So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70 **Read responsively**

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
[2] **Let those be put to shame and confusion**
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
[3] Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.

[4] **Let all who seek you**
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
[5] But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

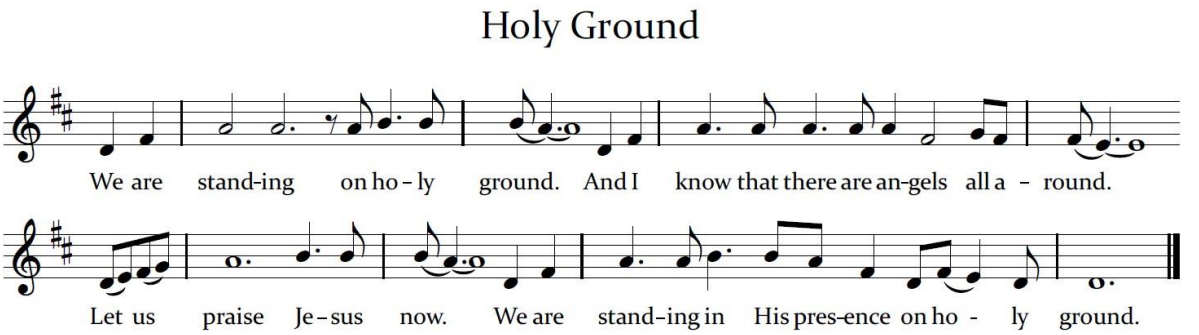
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,
so 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 died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them
to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore
encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young
women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish,
and five were wise. [3] 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, all of them
became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed
their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are
going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you
had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy
it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding
banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord,
lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake,
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

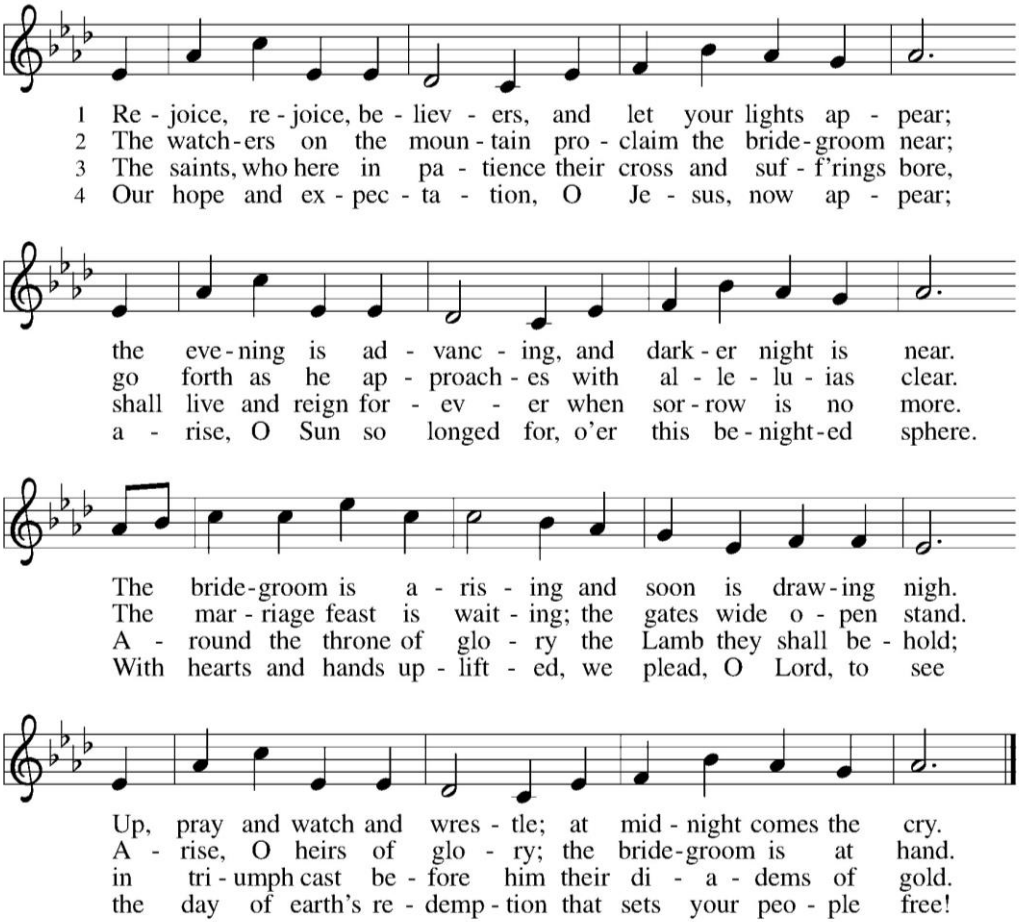
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON **Pastor Steven**

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

The service then continues with the affirmation of faith.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being,
author of heaven and earth, architect of time,
quilter of the cosmos.
You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground,
and by your breath we are given life.
We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human.
You lived among us to reveal your justice,
died among us to break the bonds of sin and death,
and were raised among us to bring abundant life.
We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit,
draws us into community, moves us to action,
and inspires us to hope against hope.
You breathe new life into a fallen world
and equip us to proclaim the Good News of resurrecting love.
All thanks and praise to you, O God,
our beginning and our end. Amen.

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

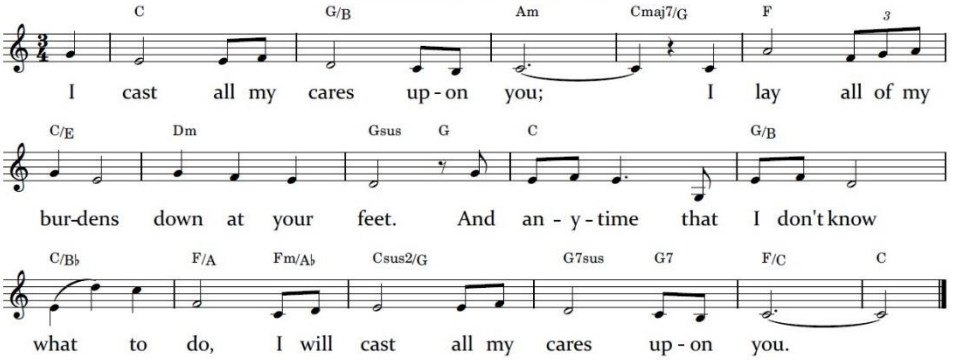
Prayers of the Church and Response

Cares Chorus

Rusty Edwards, 1997

from Worship and Praise #27

North American traditional



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

A brief silence

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness.
God, in your mercy, Hear us, O God.
I cast all my cares…

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone, especially those we remember silently or in our hearts with voice upon our lips (*pause*) the family of *(Barbara Hamilton)*, Jamale Jeffery (*friend of PJ Whitehurst*), Levi Boyd (*retired custodian of Reformation*), Lisa Gardener, Frosty Lohr, Micaela (*niece of Peggy Thompson*); Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*) Larry Harden, Nancy Beaver, Ava Jarvis (*granddaughter of Marc & Jill Mann*) David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; Joe Black (*father of Lynn Black*); Bill Black (*brother of Lynn Black*); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle;
Merciful God, ***I cast all my cares…***

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE **ELW pg. 106**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

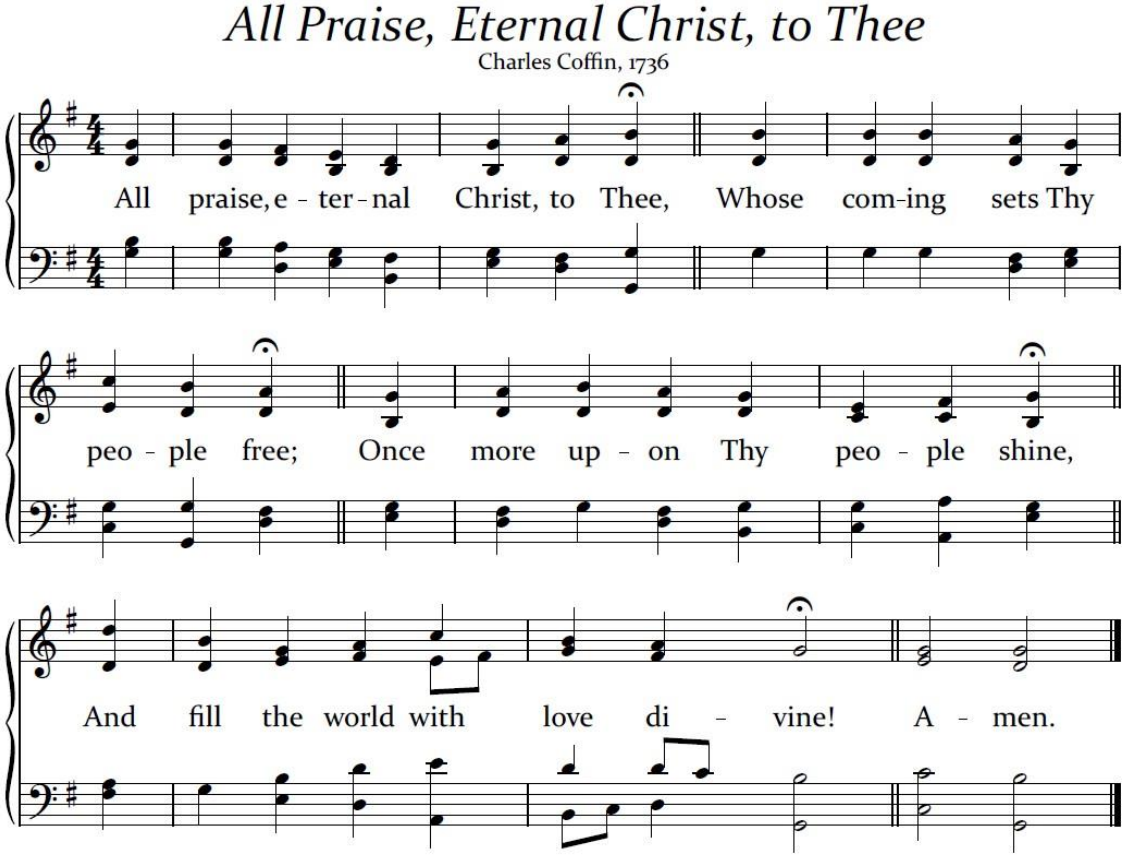
The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem *"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"* **Choir**

DOXOLOGY

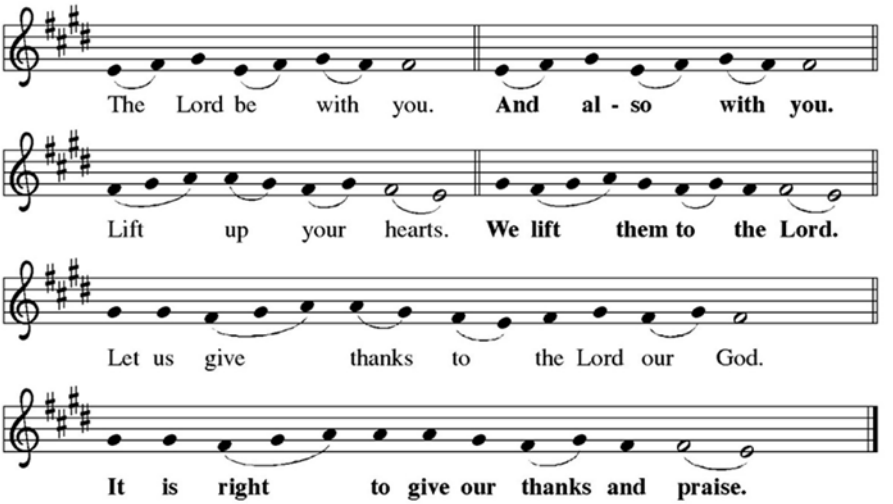


OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

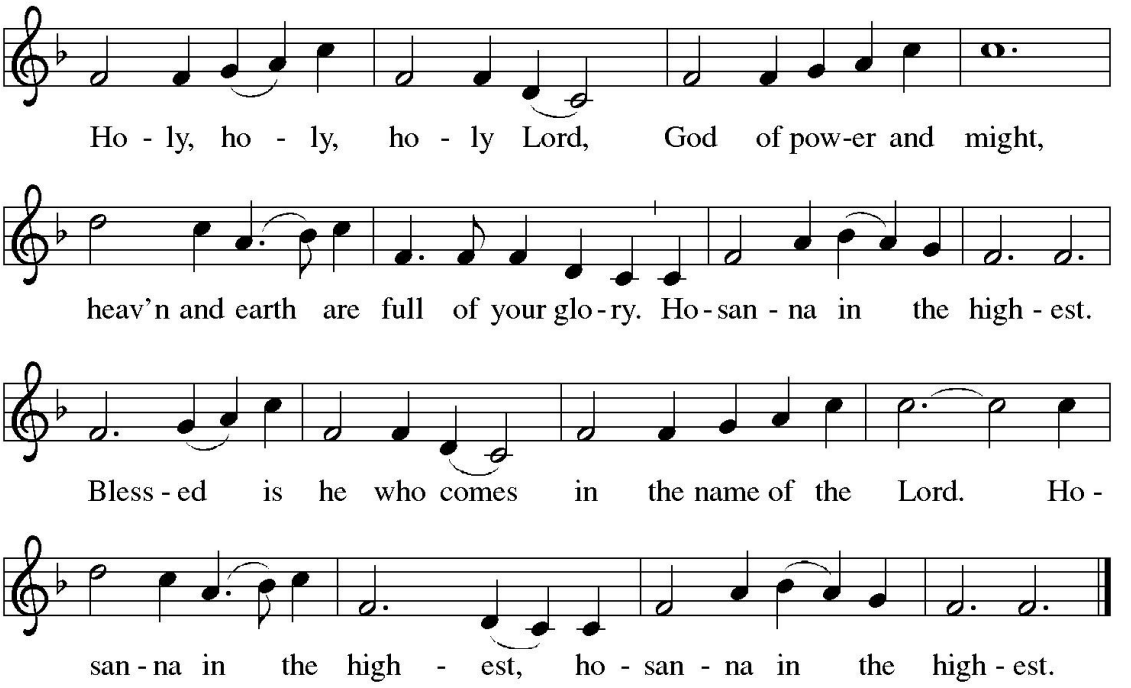
Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE and SANCTUS

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:



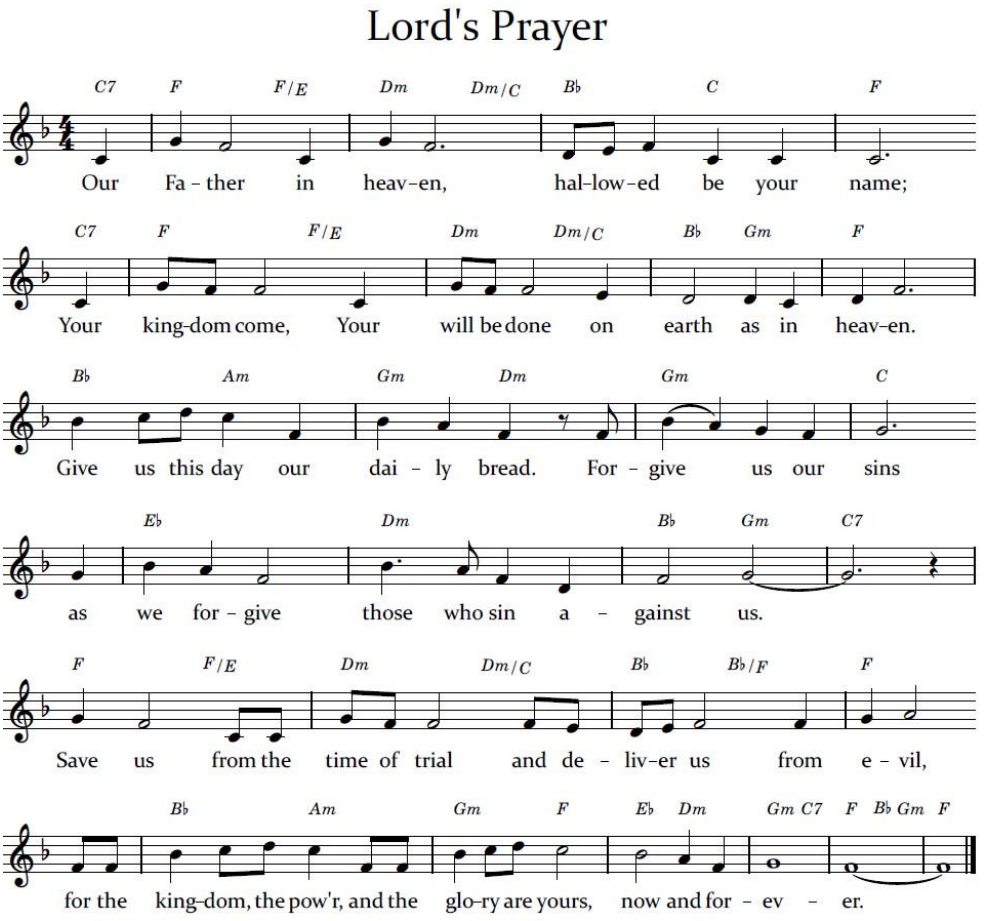
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

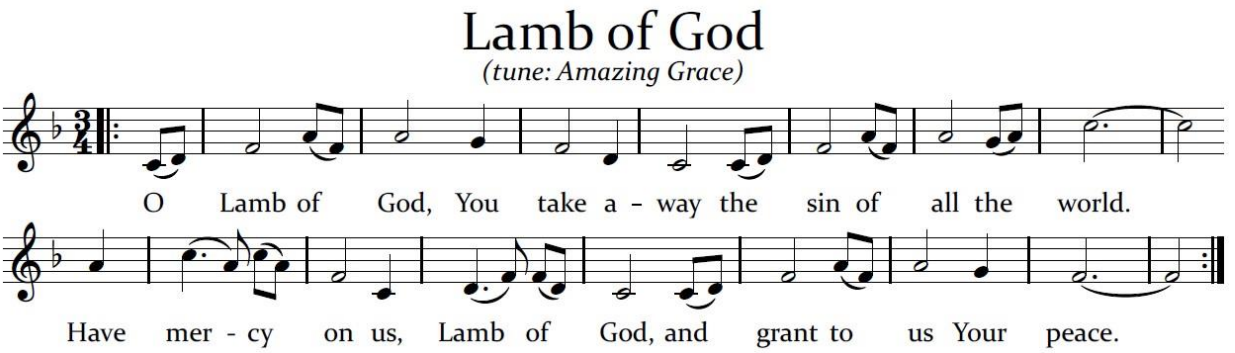
Blessed are you, O God, Creator of this wild and wonderful world. In the beginning, you called forth light from the shadows; You filled land and sea with life; You filled us with your own Spirit. You so loved your own creation that you set your rainbow in the sky; You promised life in a world that brings death;
You sent Jesus, your Son, to gather us close to you, Who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this, in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to those gathered at the table, saying: This cup is the new promise in my blood, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of many names, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this meal of shared life for the sake of the world, and fill us with your own thirst for beauty and hunger for justice, that we may continue in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. All things bright and beautiful are entrusted to us by you, and with all creation we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and always. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD



THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

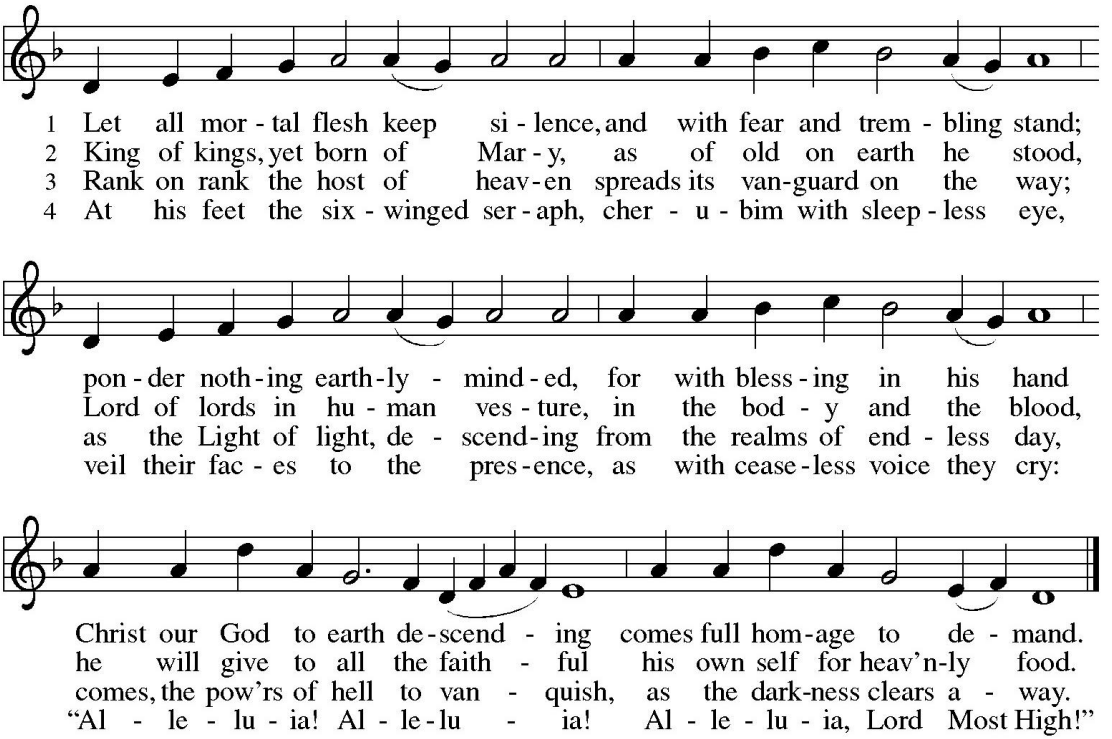
AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

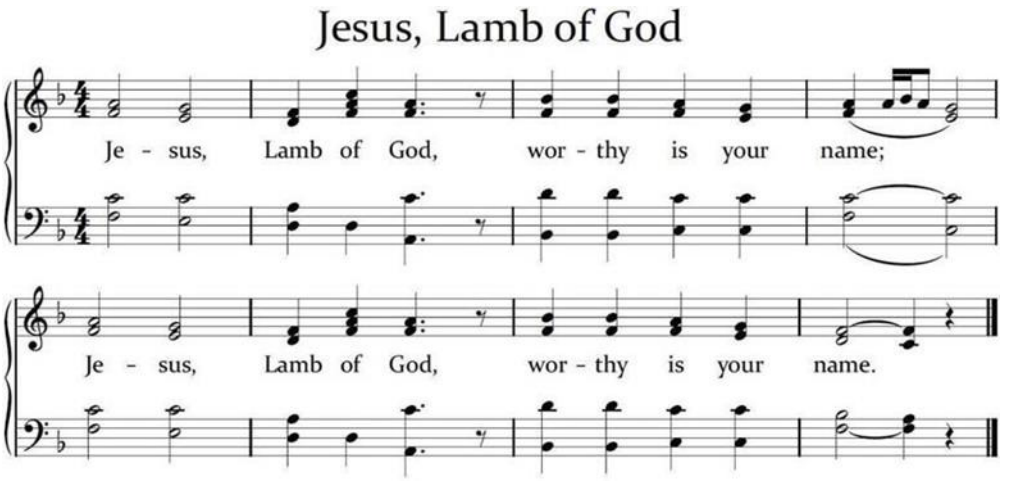
The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

COMMUNION SONG **ELW#461**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



COMMUNION HYMN



The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

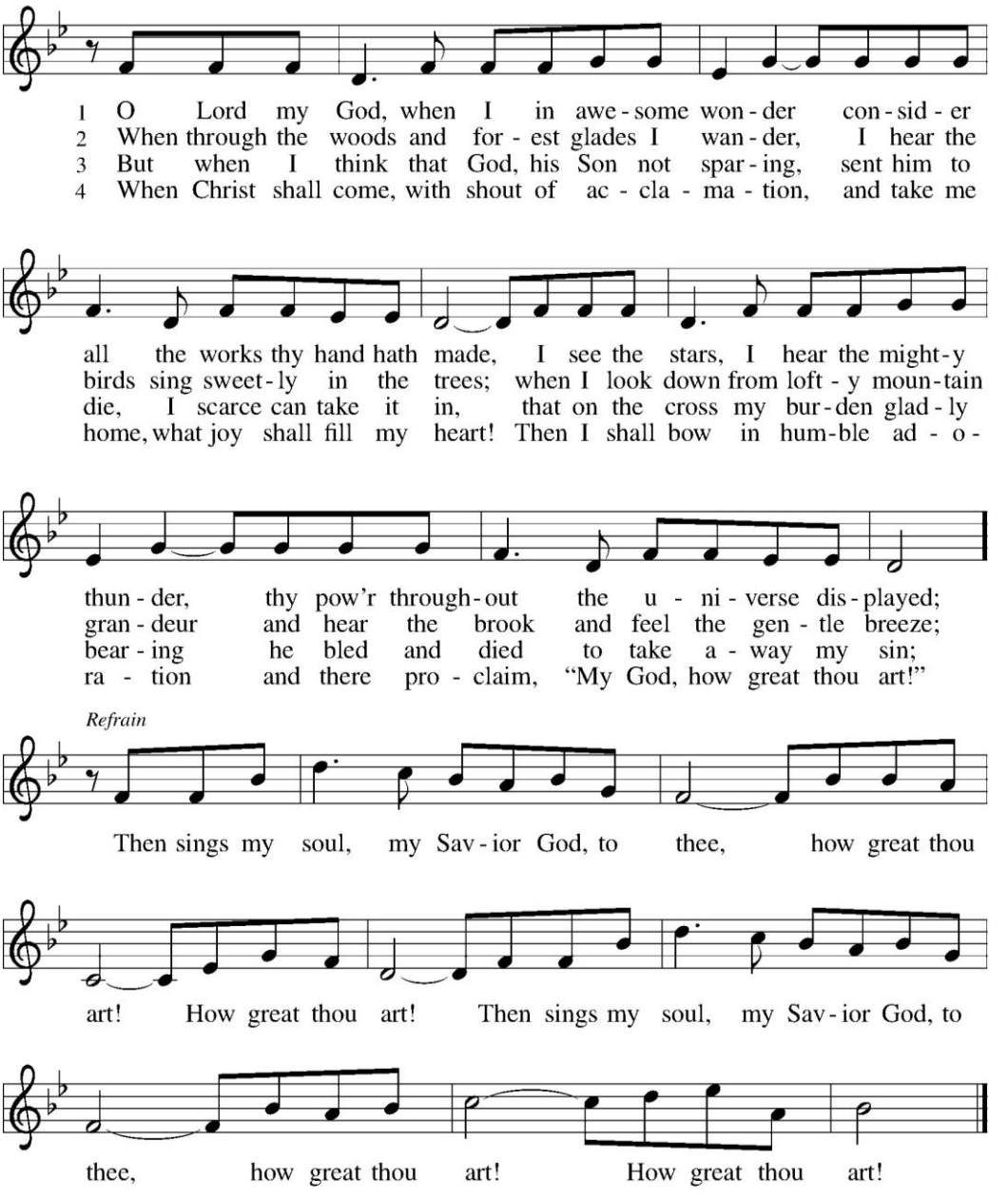
Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

As we leave this space may God's face shine upon us, God's love sustain us, and God's peace inspire us and give us peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **ELW# 856 (Red book)**

How Great Thou Art

DISMISSAL

(inspired by Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18-19)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!
We have been called,
we have been anointed,
we have been given a task.

So go out from this place
into the mission field that is the world.
We go carrying Good News to the world:
news about freedom from oppression
and healing for the afflicted.
The time of the Lord's favour is now!
Hallelujah! Amen.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Alicia Javis Food Pantry
Help stock the Alicia Javis Food Pantry by bringing canned goods and placing them on the counter near the church office. Your donations help provide food for neighbors in need. If you have questions, please see Pastor Steven.

Reformation T-Shirts Available
Only eight Reformation crew neck T-shirts remain! Available sizes are Small, Medium, and X-Large. Shirts are $26 each. Contact Dot Jeffcoat or Lynn Black to purchase yours while supplies last.

Volunteers Are Always Needed
Ministry at Reformation happens because members generously share their time, talents, interests, and passions. Opportunities to serve include worship, Christian education, the Justice Team, SafeSpace, the Kindness Team, outreach, stewardship, communications, fellowship, property, finance, archives, and more.
Interested in getting involved? Speak with a ministry team leader or the pastor, or update your information form so we can help connect you with an opportunity to serve.

Stay Up to Date
Stay connected with what is happening at Reformation! Watch for the pastor's weekly "Happenings" and church news through our Google Group and Constant Contact communications. Contact the church office if you would like to be added. Weekly bulletins and announcements are also available at reformationcae.org.

Support the Ministry of Reformation
Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Reformation Lutheran Church. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by check or cash or given through our online giving options.

Annual Congregation Meeting on November 8
We will be having our annual congregation meeting on November 8th. It is important to be there as your voice matters as we vote to approve a budget for the upcoming year and vote to appoint members of council, the nominating committee, endowment committee and more.

Save the Date for Sights and Sounds!
Saturday, December 5th, 3:00p-6:00p
Sunday, December 6th, 4:00p-7:00p
There are many volunteer opportunities, information upcoming!

Book Discussion December 13
The next book discussion will be *on Mother Emanuel Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness* and *One Charleston Church* by Kevin Sack.

Thank You, Levi Boyd
Because of his health, our longtime and faithful sexton, Levi Boyd, has decided to retire. We are deeply grateful for his many years of dedicated service caring for our church, both inside and out. We invite the congregation to contribute to a love offering in appreciation for Levi's service. Please designate your gift **"Love Offering."**

As we prepare to hire a new sexton, **volunteers are also needed** to assist with basic inside and outside church upkeep.

Volunteer Duties:
Mow, edge, weed-eat, and maintain church grounds
Pick up trash and blow leaves
Trim trees and spray weeds
Sweep, mop, and vacuum floors
Clean and restock bathrooms, empty trash
Restock soap, toilet paper, and paper towels

Scheduled Meetings

Weds at 7 Choir Rehearsals – Harold Jefferies, Director of Music
Nov 8 Annual Meeting of the Congregation – Matthew Klopfenstein, Pres.
Pending Walk Humbly Team – Ben Bullock, Chair
Pending Justice Team –
Pending Anniversary Team, if needed – Dot Jeffcoat, Chair

WORKING CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS – see details in announcements

Bulletin Deadline is Mondays at noon. If you have announcements, please send to the church office prior to the deadline. Include basic information: Who, what, when, where, why. Details help people get involved.

November

Thanksgiving Service Projects (pending)
1 All Saint's Day – Daylight Savings Ends
3 Election Day Polls at RLC: Hospitality by Member Hosts (Kindness team)
8 Annual Meeting of the Congregation as set by Constitution
8 Narcan Presentation
11 Veterans Day
22 Christ the King Sunday (Begin Advent decorations after church on Nov 22 & 29)
26 Thanksgiving Day
29 5th Sunday: Welcome/New Members –Advent Begins (continue decorating)

December

Holiday Service Projects (pending)
1-4 Set up week for Sights and Sounds
4 Nativity Set Displays set up by those sharing sets for display
5-6 Sights and Sounds Event for Community (Kindness team)
21 Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship
24 Christmas Eve Worship
27 Lessons and Carols

ADD or KEEP YOUR CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE
Complete any new information below, tear it out and put it in the offering plate. If you are not receiving information, it may be because we do not have contact information.

Name(s) _____
Current Mailing Address _____
_____

Name	Current email	Current Phone

We would like to be involved in planning and leading Reformation activities:

Kindness Team (outreach	Justice Team (service	Humbly Team (worship
Blessing of Animals	Service/Season Projects	Worship leader
Trunk or Treat	SC PRIDE	VBS Event
Sights and Sounds	Safe Space	Clean up/work days
Poll Host in 2 hr shifts	100th Anniversary--Oct	Other: _____

REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING congregation that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color.

The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of gamesto play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.

Do Justice:

Below is information on ways to contact your elected officials to voice your opinion on issues.

SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUES

SC state legislative issues: SC Womens' Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) keeps you informed about legislation that affects women's rights in the state. The American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina is broader in scope and addresses all legislation affecting civil liberties. Both sites have an "Action" section which allows one to sign petitions and call or write state officials regarding issues. Each organization also provides talking points for calls and letters; prewritten letters which can be modified are also provided. It's easy to identify your legislators on both websites.

The URLs below take you to the action section of each organization:

scwren.org/act-now
aclusc.org/actions

NATIONAL ISSUES

A popular national website for letters and petitions is resistbot. It provides an easy way to write or petition both federal and state legislators. Choose from a variety of already written letters and petitions, or write your own. Emailing officials is free with the service, or you can buy "coins" to either fax or send your correspondence via first class mail.

The URL is below:
resist.bot/petitions

If you prefer to call your federal legislators, 5Calls provides the names and phone numbers of your Congressperson and Senators, and scripts for a variety of national issues that you can use when calling them. It also provides additional talking points for each issue so that you can customize your message.

The URL is below:
5calls.org

Ask the Pastor

Have a question about the Christian faith, worship, Scripture, or life?

Pastor Steven welcomes your questions—anonymously!

Wondering why we celebrate Holy Communion? Curious about the meaning of the hanging cross in our sanctuary? Have questions about theology, marriage, Lutheran beliefs, prayer, baptism, or other topics of faith?

Simply write your question on the blank sheet provided in the back of this bulletin, or pick up an "Ask the Pastor" form from the table in the Narthex.

Place your question in the offering plate during worship. Questions may be submitted anonymously.

Listen for additional details and answers from Pastor Steven through future newsletters, educational forums, classes, and church communications.

No question is too simple or too complex. We invite you to ask, learn, and grow in faith together.

ASK YOUR QUESTION