TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2026

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

703 W. Third St.
Mercedes, TX 78570
956-565-1518

Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com

Rev. Ed Weber
eweber10@aol.com
956-463-1305

Sunday 9:00 AM
Worship Service

10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
Every Sunday

Website:
lutheranmercedes.com

Office Hrs, M-F
8am to noon



Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

"We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10;1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you… this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17–34.
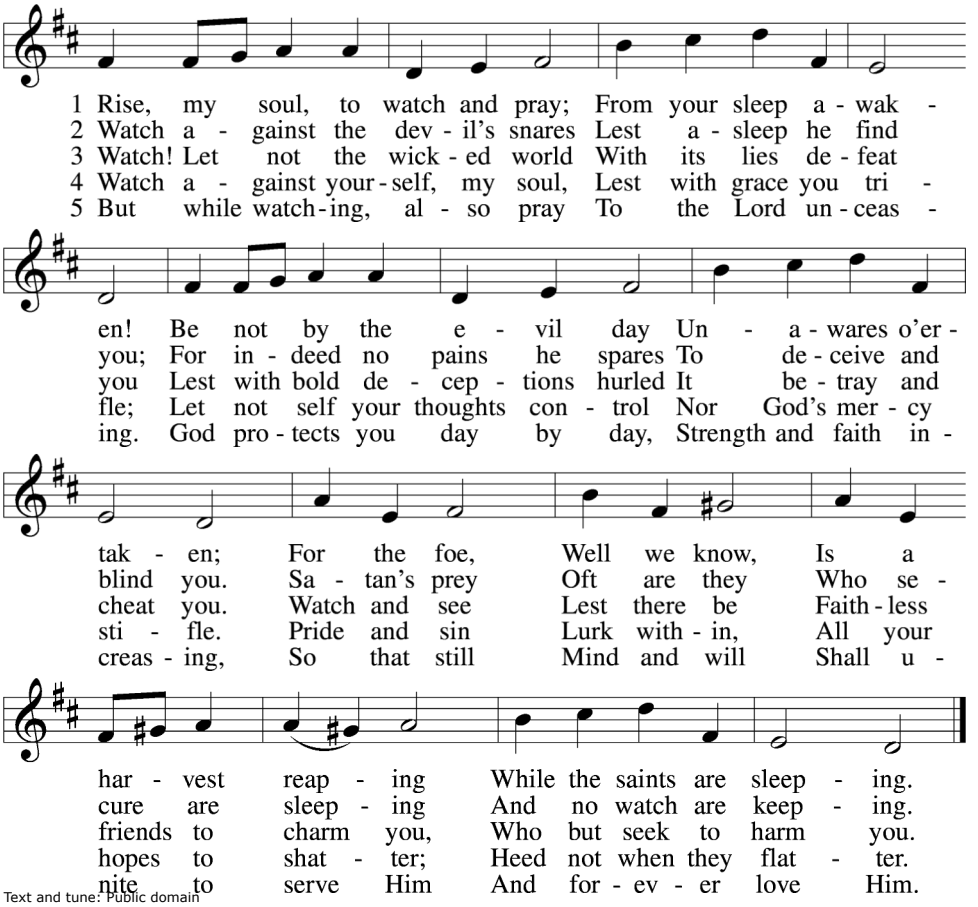
A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH - Lord God, heavenly Father, You have called Your church to wait for her Bridegroom with repentance and hope. Call to my attention the ways I have been unprepared for Christ's return, that I may meet Him with joy when the eternal wedding feast commences; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - The Lord is grieved by the empty worship of His people. Their songs and their offerings mean nothing when their hearts are far from Him, and He will not accept them any longer (Amos 5:21–23). And the day of the Lord will actually catch them off guard and unprepared. Jesus offers the same warning in the parable of the ten virgins, calling His disciples to watch for a bridegroom who will come at an unknown day and hour (Matthew 25:13). Jesus' warning calls us to attention as we reflect on our own position of waiting for His return. His warning is followed by Paul's further description of what our waiting looks like. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, our waiting is also filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray **LSB 663**



Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3

P Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

C How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!

P O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.
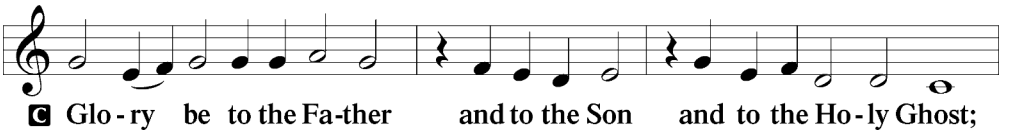
C For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
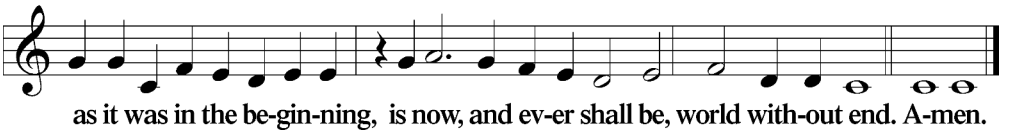
P For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!
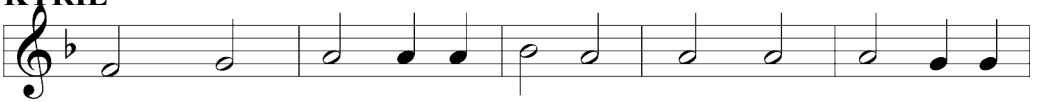
P Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
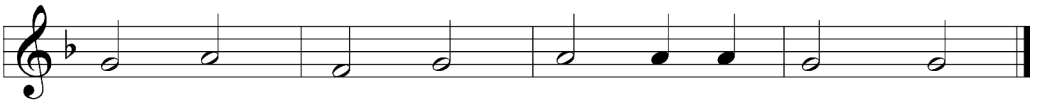
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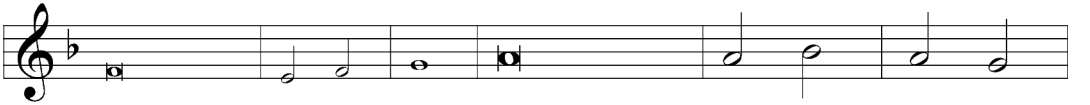
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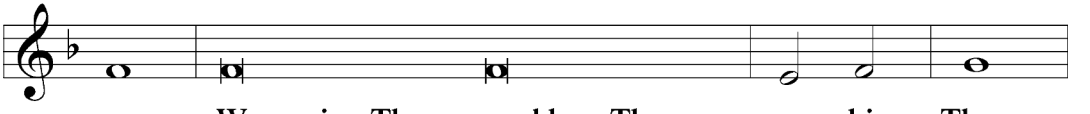


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

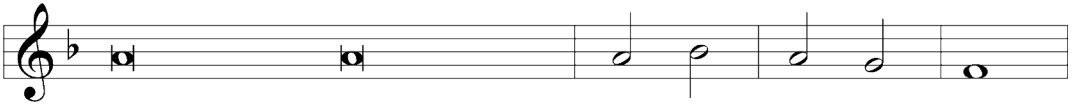
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS
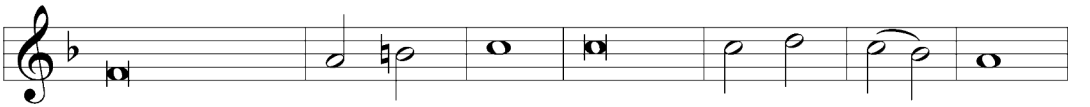


℗ Glory be to God on high: ℂ and on earth peace, good - will toward



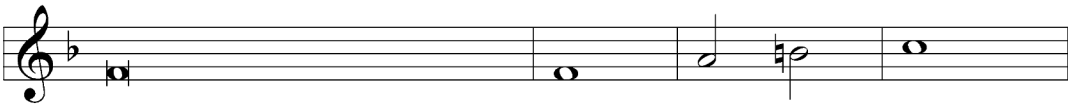
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
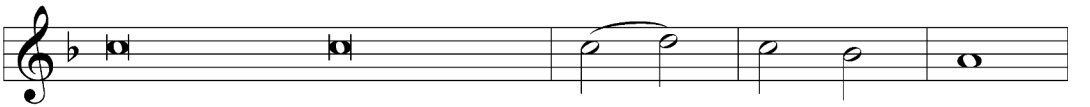


we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



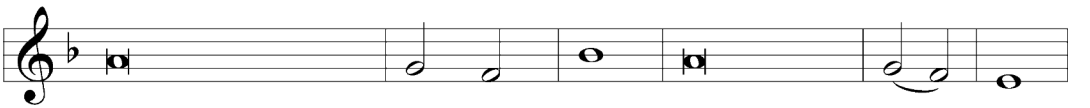
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
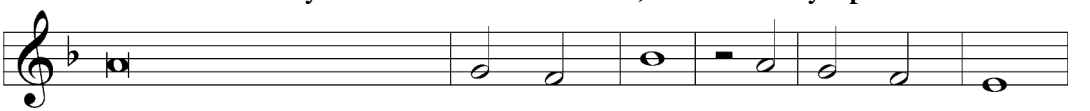


O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



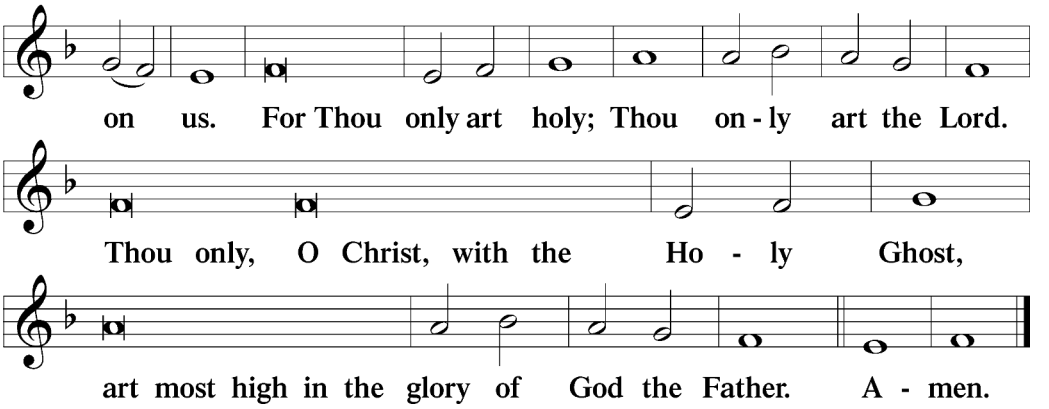
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
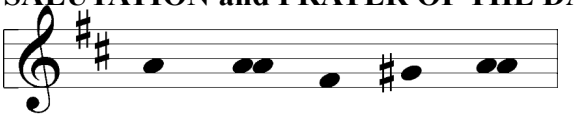


Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

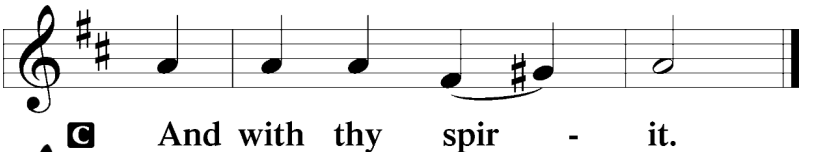


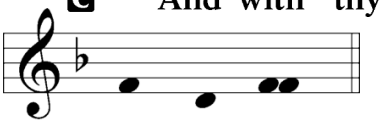
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY







P 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.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18-24*

(The day of the Lord will bring justice and righteousness that silences all false and shallow worship.)

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light.
19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him!
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.
23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.
24 But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 70; antiphon: v. 4*

P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"
C Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord!
P Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life; let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt.
C Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, "Aha, aha!"
P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"
C But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.
P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

(We grieve with hope and await the day when Christ will awaken all who are asleep.)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with
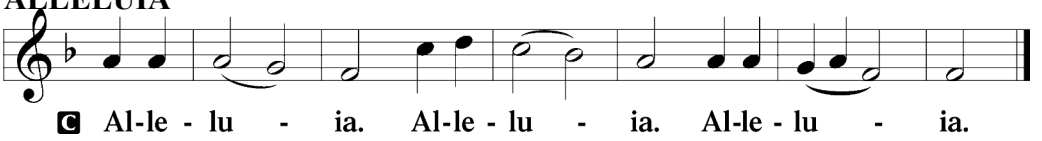
the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand
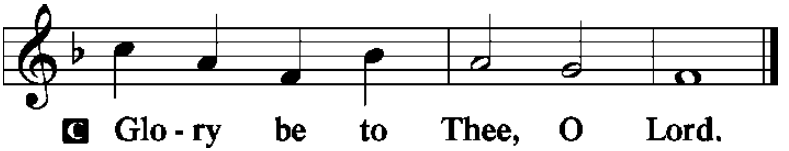
ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13*
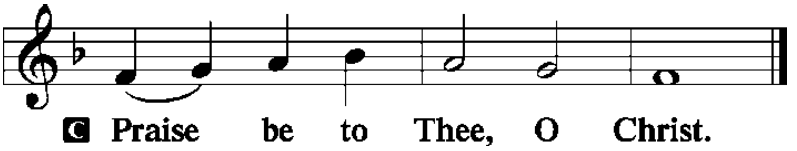
(Watch for the Bridegroom, who will return at any moment.)

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



1 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and
went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3
Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil
in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all
slumbered and slept.
6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet
him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose 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, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who
sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and
those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.
11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he
answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’
13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is
coming.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord
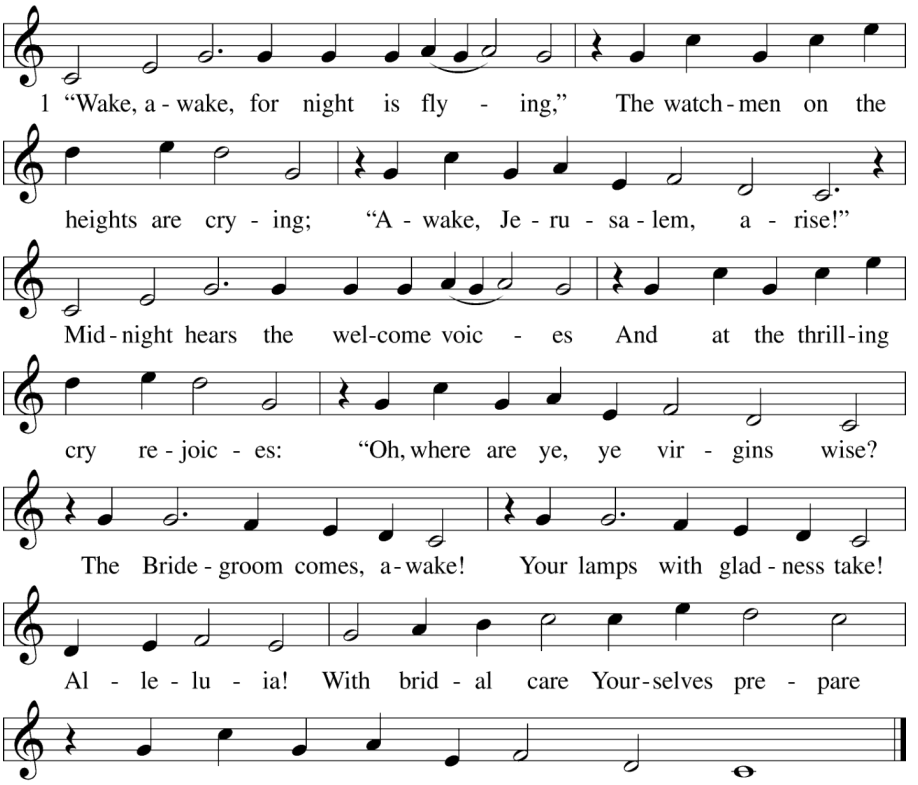


NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying **LSB 516**



2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all the wedding hall to eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, no ear has heard the might of Thy glory;
Therefore will we eternally sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!
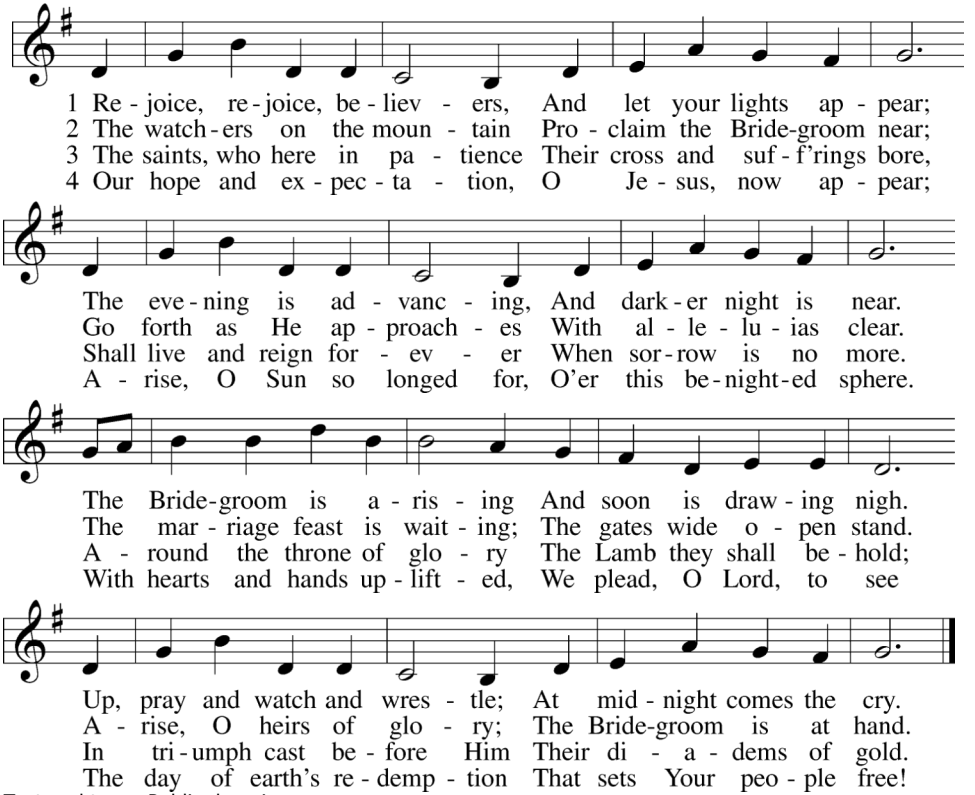
Text: Public domain

SERMON ***"The Midnight Scramble"*** Matthew 25:6-10

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* **LSB 515**



Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you"
[through use of American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As the Bride of Christ, waiting for our Bridegroom to return, let us pray for the whole church of God and for all people according to their needs.
Lord of Light, in Your Son You brought light into this world that no darkness could overcome and no one could extinguish. Bless all pastors and church workers in their work of tending to the church's lamp through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, that they be faithful in calling us to attention and pointing us to the One for whom we wait with hope. You are our help and our deliverer.

C O Lord, do not delay.

P Loving Father, in Holy Baptism You have given us the gift of faith, making us wise to the salvation You have brought in Jesus. Keep us from falling into foolish ways and embolden us to share the blessing of all that Jesus has done with those who have no hope. You are our help and our deliverer.

C O Lord, do not delay.

P Vigilant Lord, we know neither the day nor the hour that Jesus will return, but You do. Keep us mindful of the ways we have fallen asleep in our waiting, that we remain alert to the ways You are active and ruling in our world, especially through the ones You have given authority to watch and protect us: our president and Congress; all law enforcement, fire protection, and medical personnel; and all who serve in the military. Guide their work of shielding Your people with mercy and justice. You are our help and our deliverer.

C O Lord, do not delay.

P Merciful Lord, even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest at Your altars. Look upon the faces of Your anointed and all those whose needs we bring to Your altar: all who are suffering and hurting and all who are waiting and longing, [especially . . .]. Be their sun and shield, withholding no good thing from those who walk uprightly. You are our help and our deliverer.

C O Lord, do not delay.

P Lord of Life, since Jesus died and rose again, You have transformed the ways that we grieve, filling those moments with hope. Be with all who are in mourning, that they be comforted with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection and of the reunion with those who have died in the faith. You are our help and our deliverer.

C O Lord, do not delay.

P For all who gather to commune at Your altar today, we pray that they be prepared to partake in the wedding feast of Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins that they may receive their Bridegroom with joy. You are our help and our deliverer.

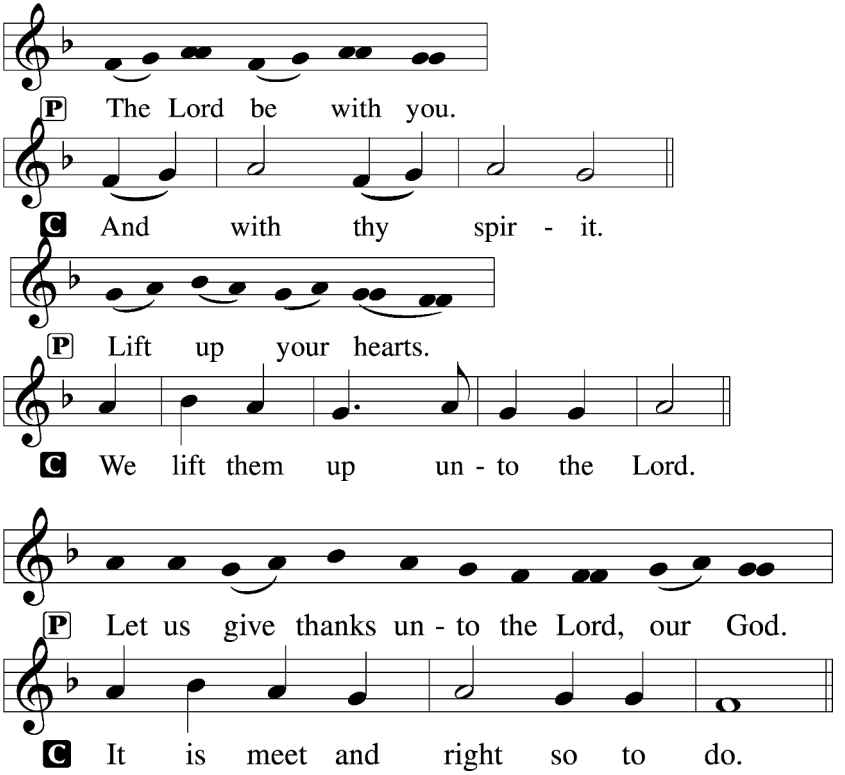
C O Lord, do not delay.

P Though we know neither the day nor the hour, we wait in hope, O Lord, trusting that You hear our prayers and will preserve Your people. This we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one

God, now and forever.
C Amen.

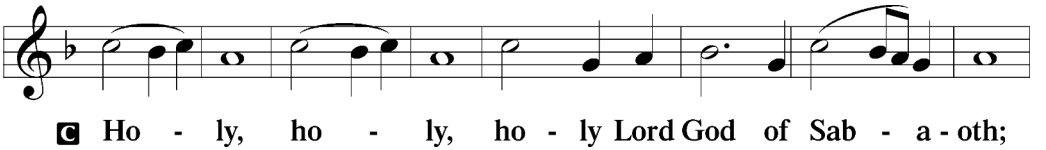
+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

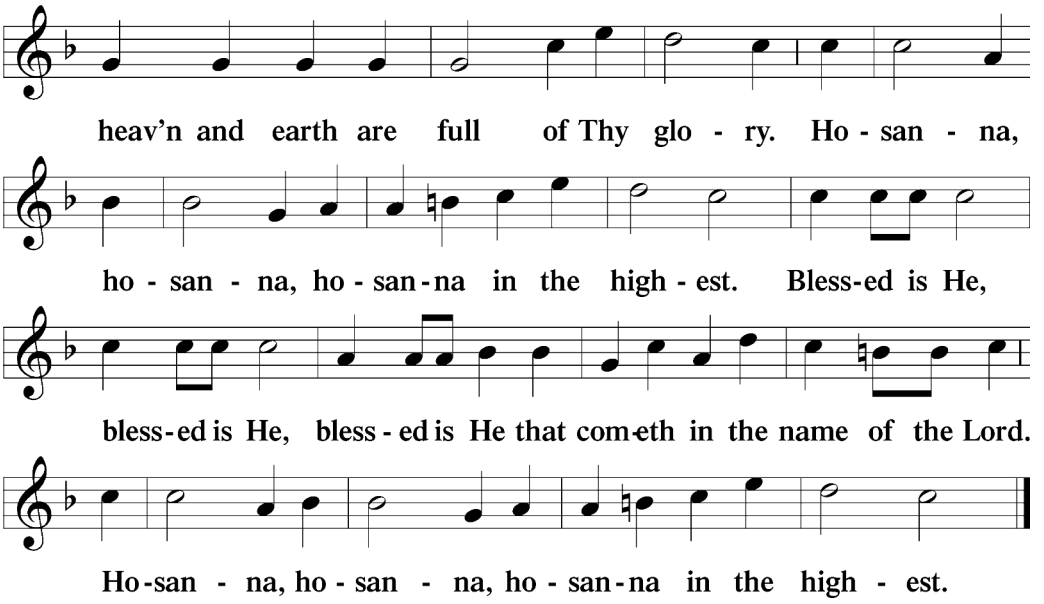
PREFACE



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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
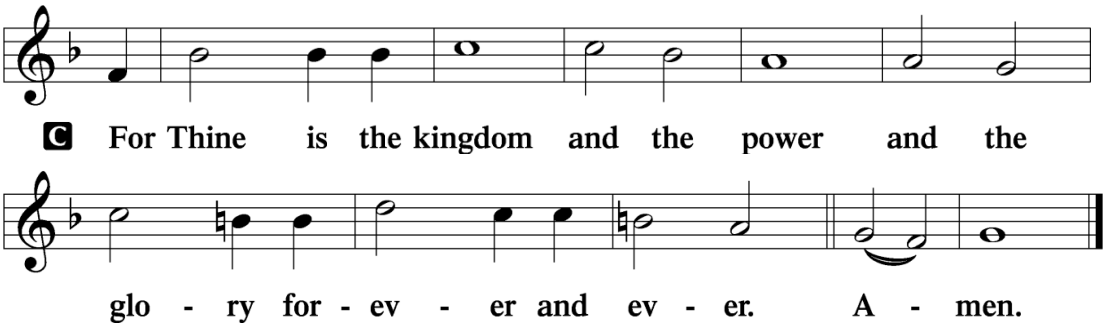
SANCTUS





LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

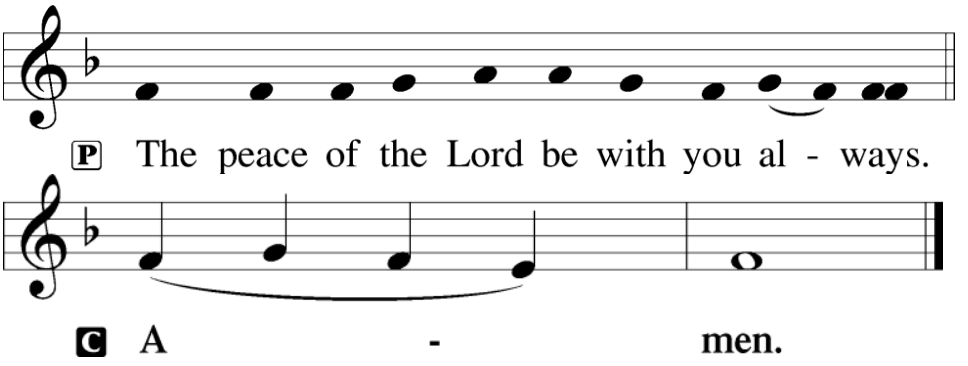


THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
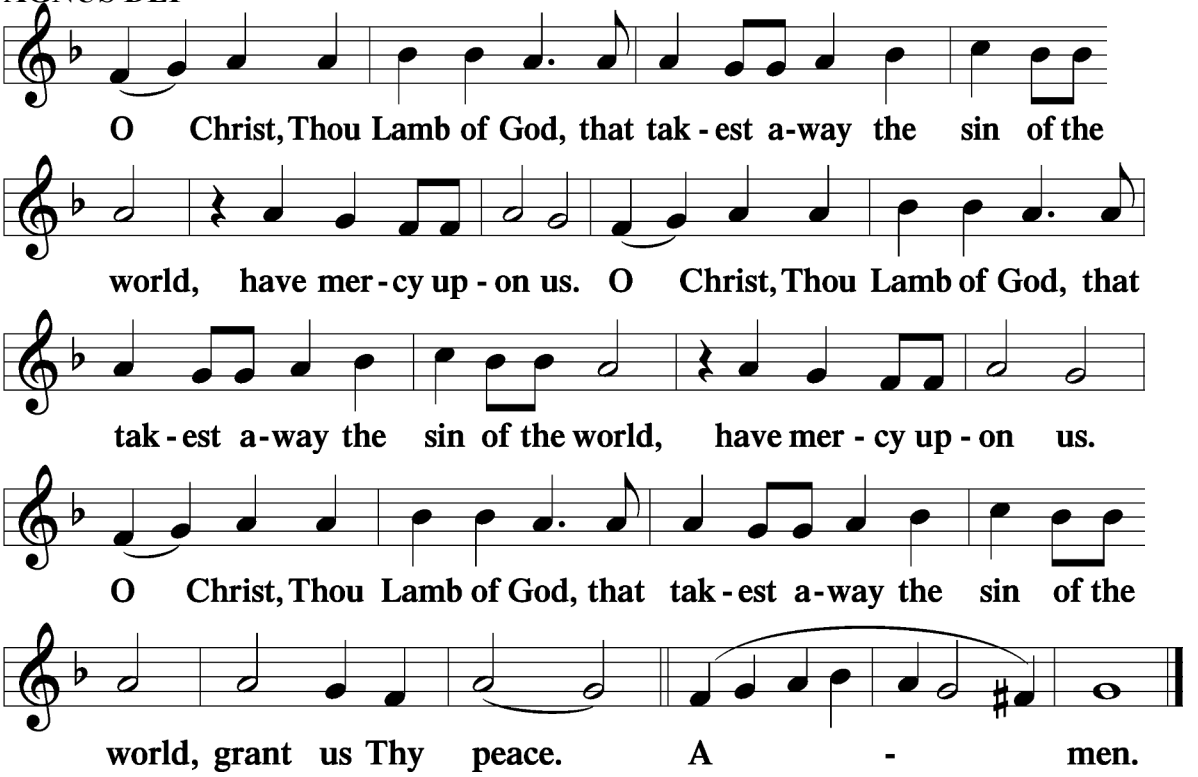
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P 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."

PAX DOMINI



AGNUS DEI



Please sit
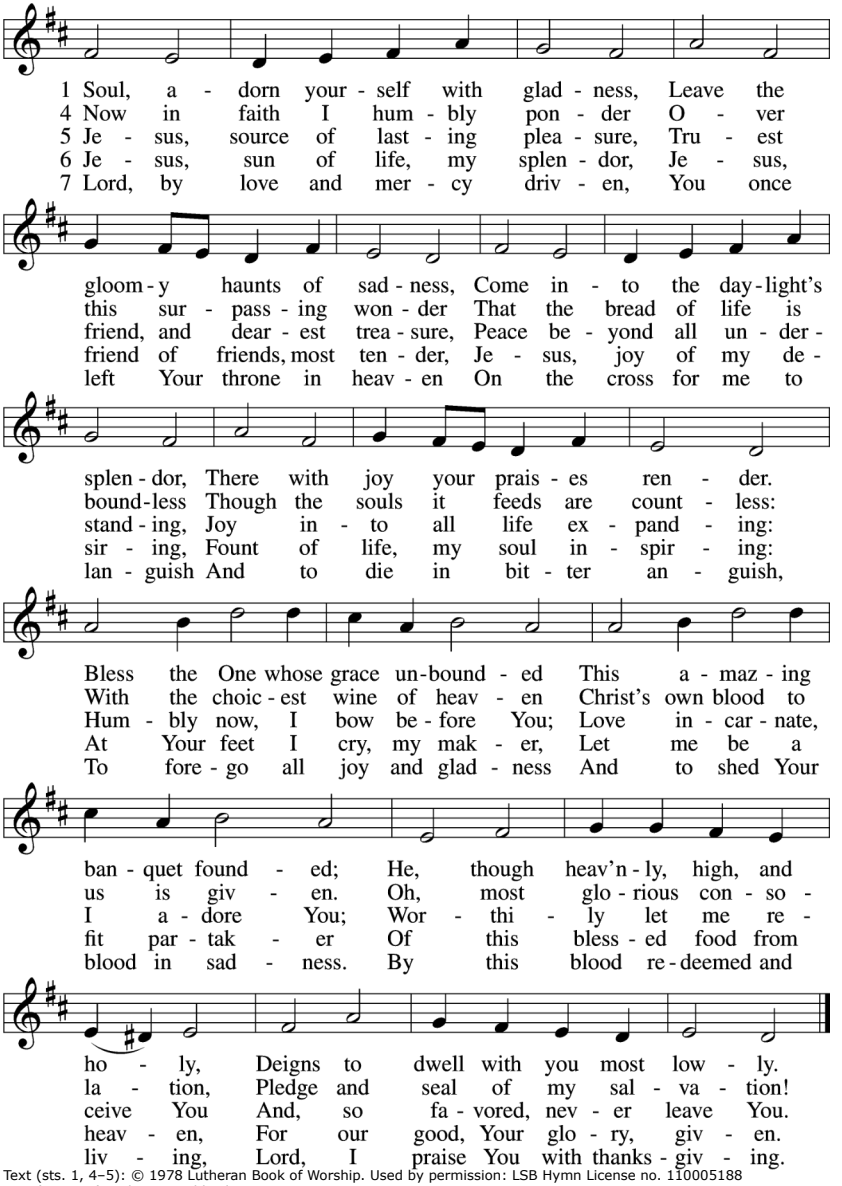
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession.

Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.
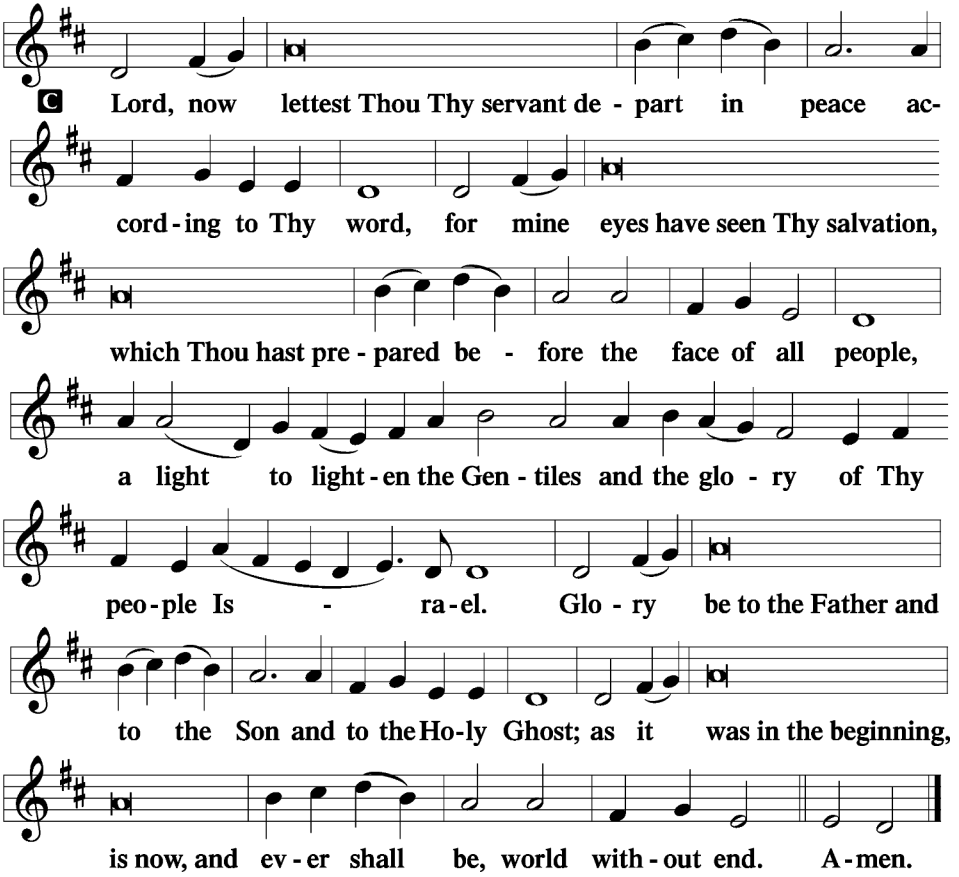
COMMUNION HYMN *Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **LSB 636 vs. 1, 4-7**



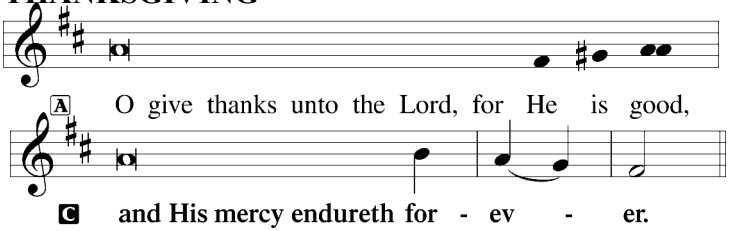
Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005188
Text (sts. 6–7) and tune: Public domain

Please stand
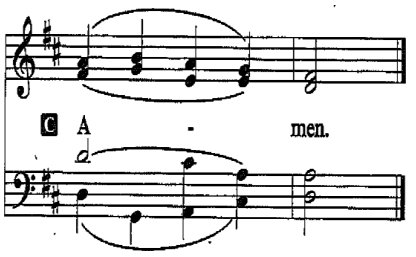
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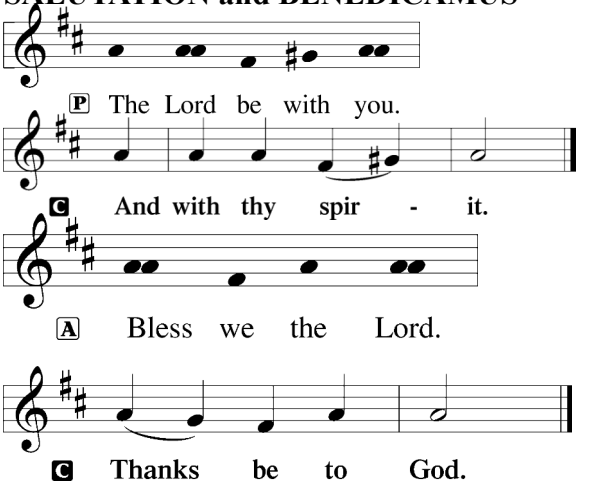


THANKSGIVING



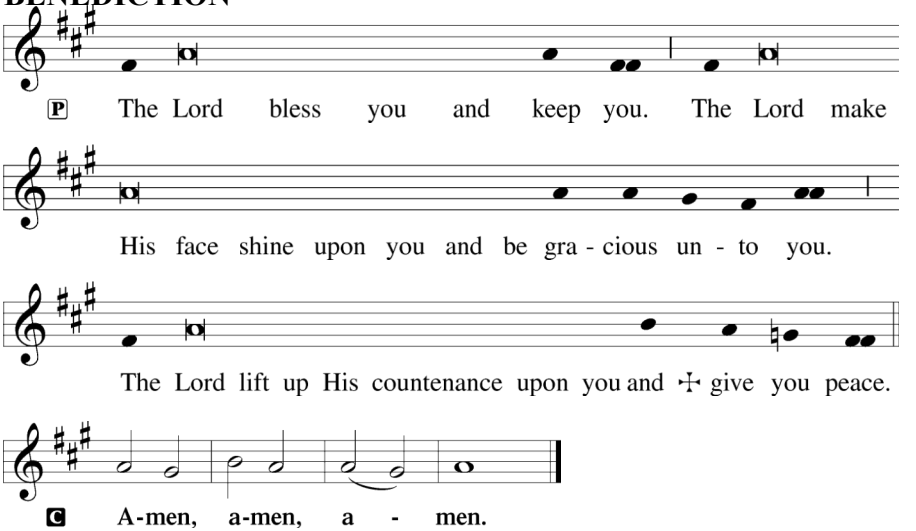
P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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



SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS
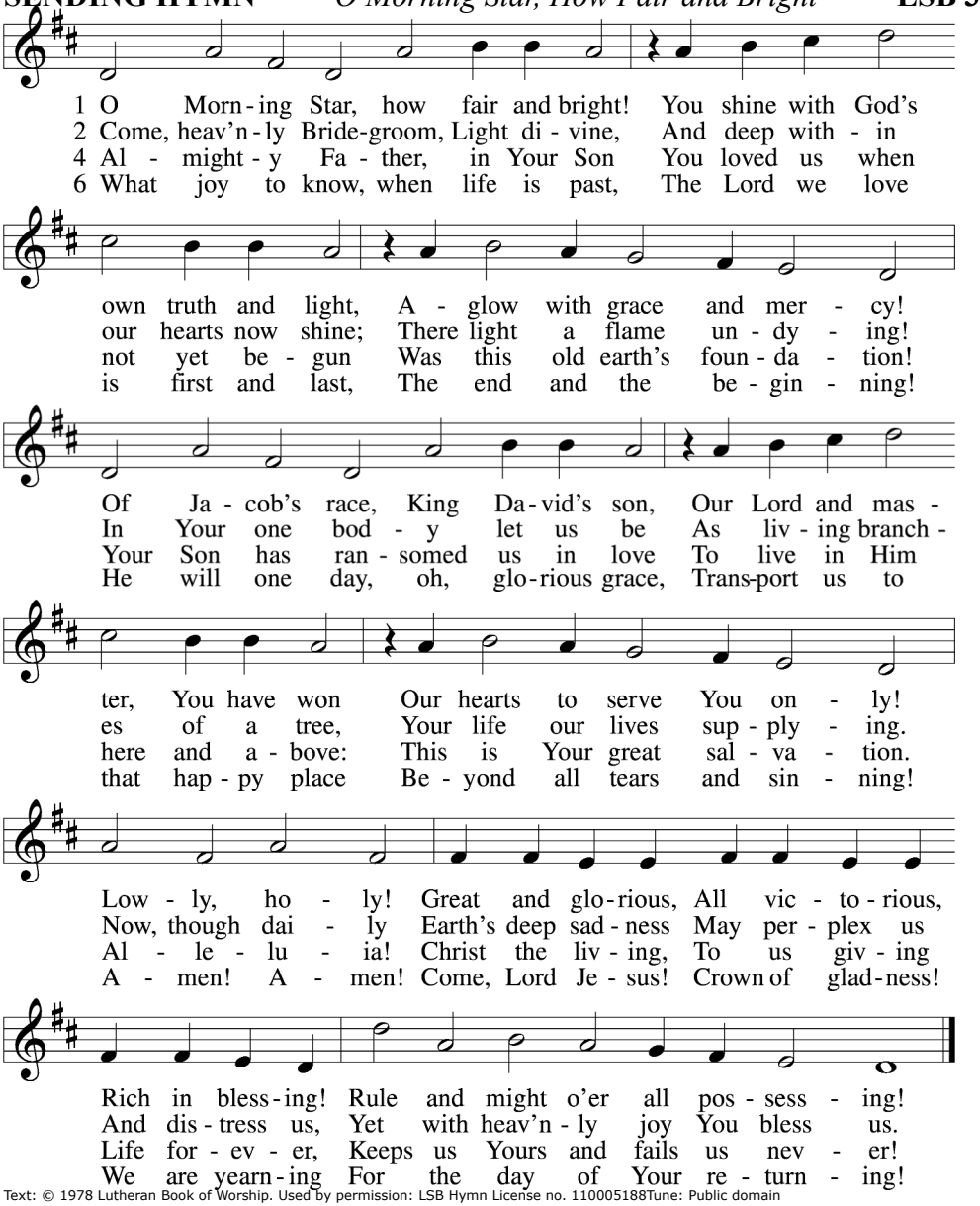


BENEDICTION



Please sit

SENDING HYMN *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* **LSB 395 vs.1,2,4,6**



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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

> Portals of Prayer for October to December 2026 are available in the Narthex or office.

>Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Weber is leading the class.

> Plastic bottle caps and can tabs are still being collected.

> Confirmation Class - Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

> Donations for turkey distribution for needy on Nov. 24th are welcome!

> Men's Dinner/Bible Study - Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 6:00 pm

> THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE - Nov. 25th at 6:00 p.m. Pie Social to follow

SERMON NOTES

November 1, 2026	
Sunday Worship:	**50**
Plate:	$ 1,500.00
Envelopes:	$ 2,828.00
Online/Tithely:	$ 750.00/0
Other: Lutheran Witness	$ 99.00
Memorial: Matt Miller	$ 1,000.00
Other: Bible Class: **22**	$ 28.00
Total	$ 6,205.00

Budgeted need YTD:	$201,618
Actual Giving YTD:	$144,876
Overall/(shortfall):YTD	($56,742)
Budgeted Need Weekly:	$4,480
For church balances, see treasurers reports	

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is *"darkness, and not light"* (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their *"burnt offerings and grain offerings,"* nor will He look upon their *"peace offerings"* (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets *"justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"* (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us *"to the dealers"* (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we *"encourage one another with these words"* (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes *"with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,"* and *"we will always be with the Lord"* (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Bible Memory Verse Challenge

1 Peter 1:24–25

The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(PROPER 28)

November 15, 2026

Zephaniah 1:7–16

Psalm 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

Biweekly Church Activity Schedule

	November Sunday Servants
Elder:	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	Laurie Brown/ Maggie Weber
Music:	Doris Pickering
This week:	***Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost***
Usher:	Ken Eilers
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am
Next week:	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Usher:	Don Vogel
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am