LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22, 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

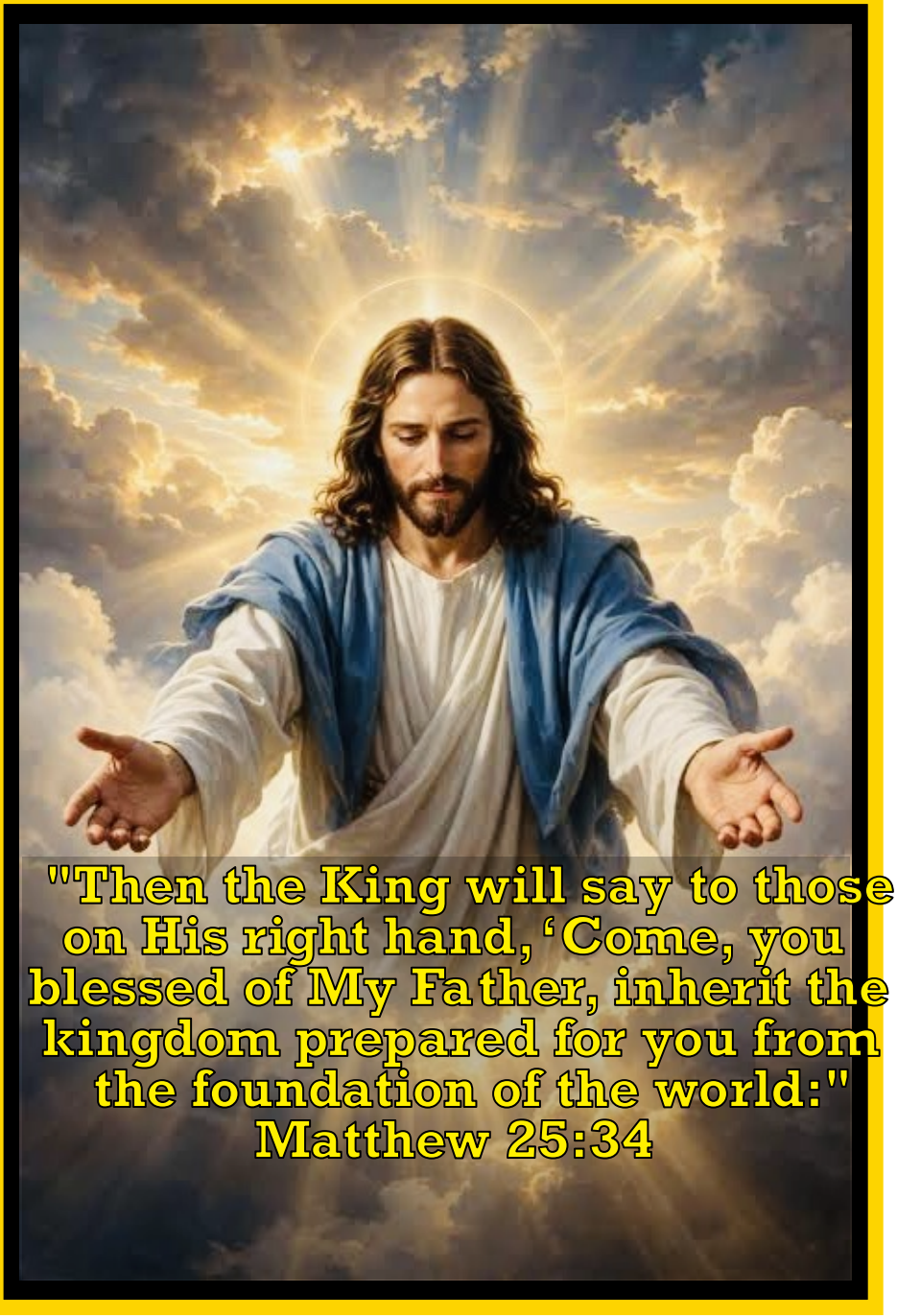
Sunday 9:00 AM
Worship Service

10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
Every Sunday

Website:
lutheranmercedes.com

Office Hrs, M-F
8am to noon



LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22, 2026

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.

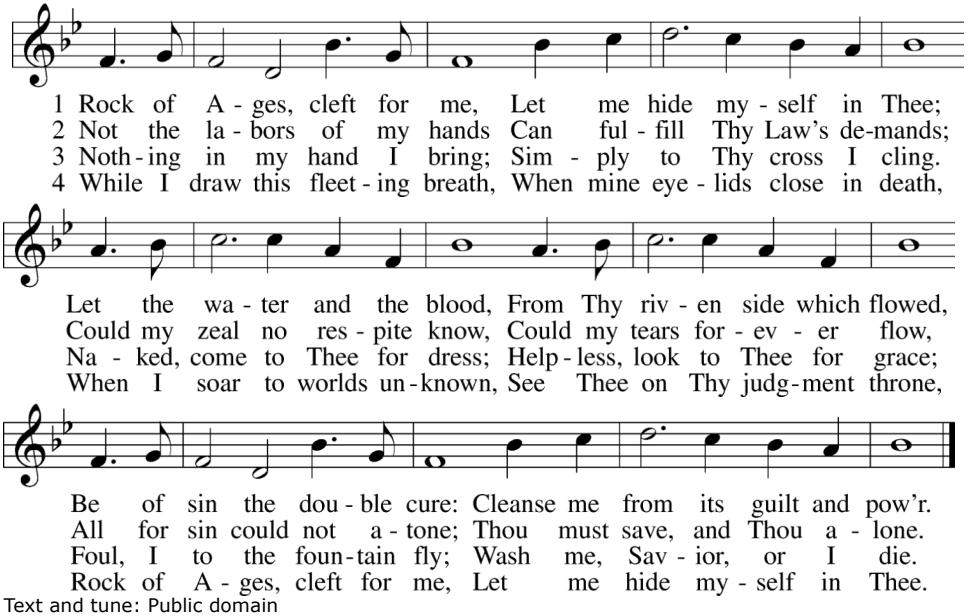
The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, 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 - Eternal God, merciful Father, by His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has won for me the final and eternal victory and now sits on the throne to judge the living and the dead. Enable me always to take comfort in Christ's victory over Satan and all evil; 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 end of the Church Year is filled with both mystery and revelation. We do not know when the Last Day will be, nor when Jesus will return. The Last Sunday of the Church Year turns our attention to what we do know. We know that the Lord Himself will search for His sheep and will rescue them (Ezekiel 34:11–12). We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and that all things will be put in subjection under Him (1 Corinthians 15:20, 27). We know that Jesus will sit on His glorious throne and welcome His sheep into His kingdom (Matthew 25:31, 34). We know that death, the final enemy, will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26). We know that all will be made alive in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22). We know that the Lord is a great God and a loving King (Psalm 95:3)!

PRELUDE
WELCOME
OPENING HYMN Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
LSB 761



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 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13*

P Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

C "Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.

P Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You;

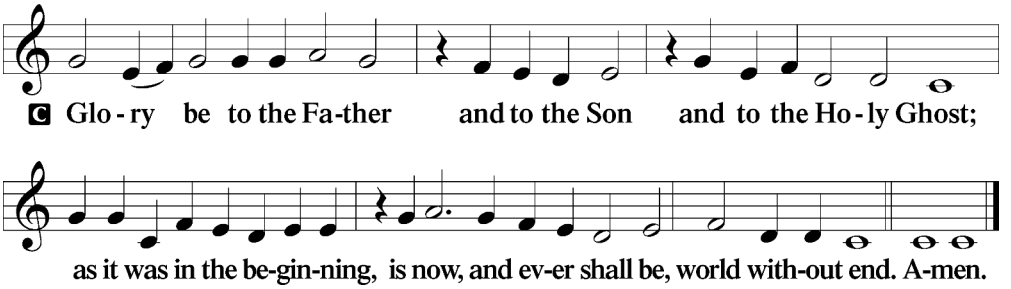
C "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

P Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of the foolish.

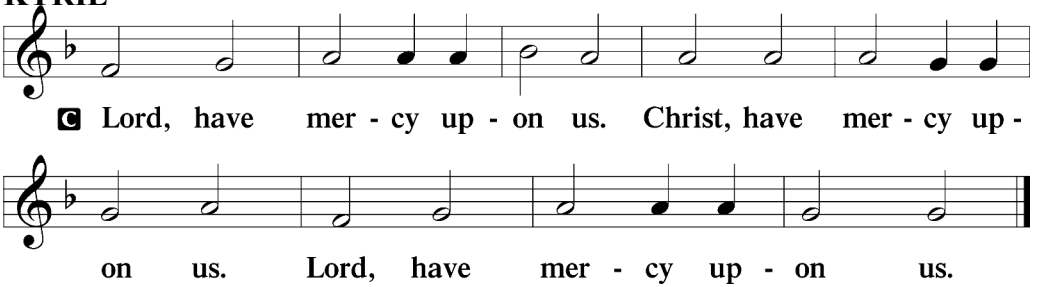
C "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my tears; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

P Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

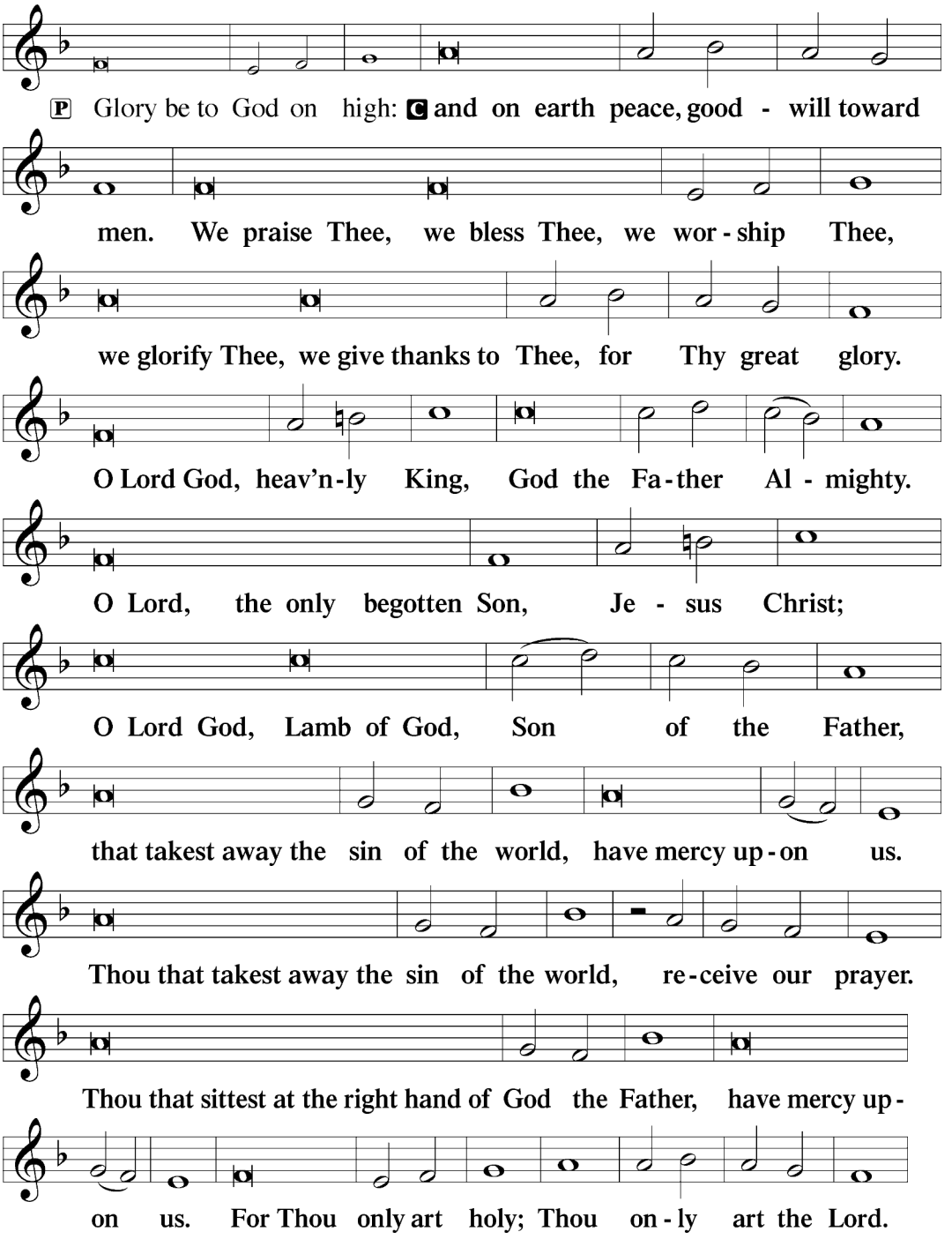
GLORIA PATRI

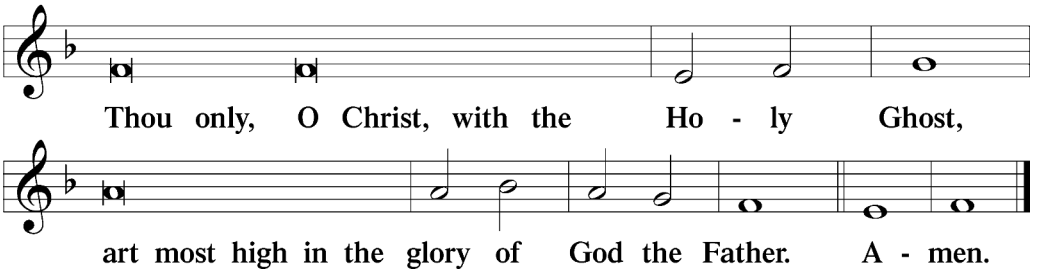


KYRIE

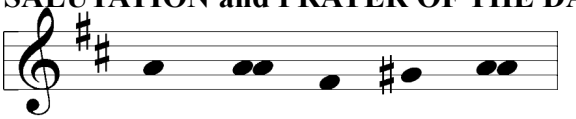


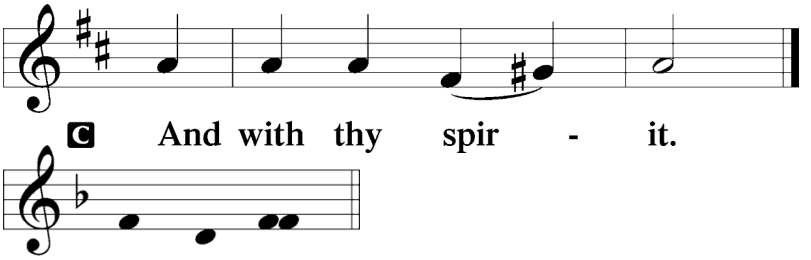
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY





P 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.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm 95:1–7a*

(The Lord Himself will search for His sheep.)

11 ‘For thus says the Lord God: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. 13 And I will bring them out from the

peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord God. 16 "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment." 20 'Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: "Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. 21 Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, 22 therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a*

P For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,

C Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

P Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

C For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.

P In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also.

C The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

C For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

(Christ has been raised from the dead and will put all enemies under His feet.)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things

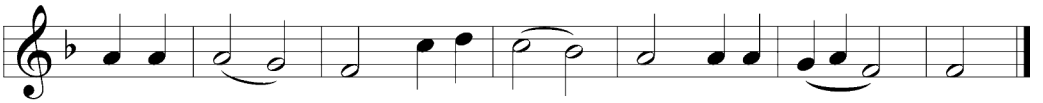
are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

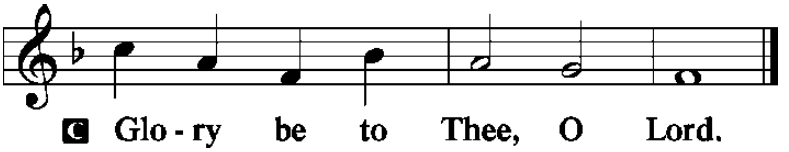
ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46*

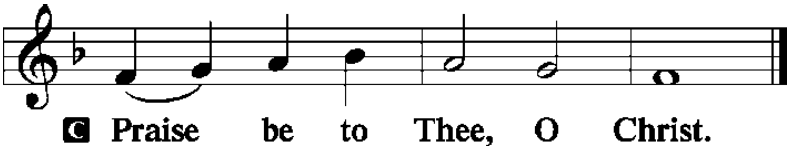
(The Son of Man will come in glory and will reveal those who belong to Him.)

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



31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the [a]holy angels with Him, then
He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and
He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33
And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King
will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of 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 took Me in; 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 When did we see You a stranger and take
You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come
to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch
as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then He will
also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting 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 take Me in, naked
and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they also
will answer Him, 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, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch 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 everlasting punishment, but the
righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord



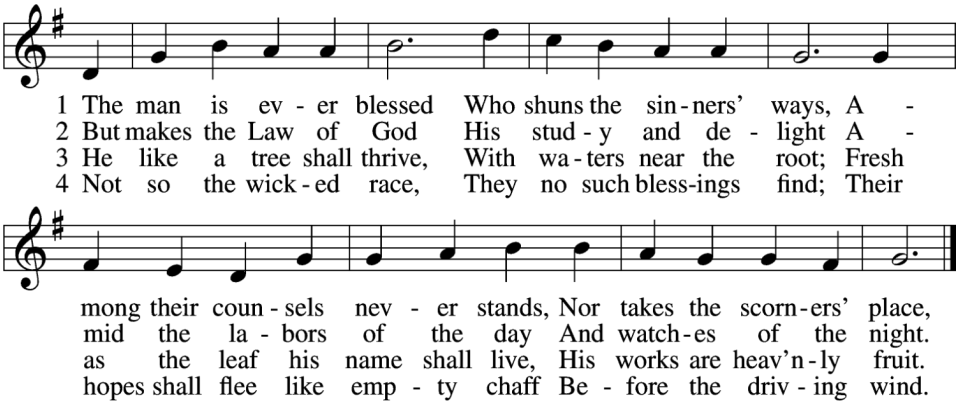
NICENE CREED

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 *The Man Is Ever Blessed* **LSB 705**



5 How will they bear to stand
Before the judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand
In full assembly meet?

6 He knows and He approves
The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet
A dreadful overthrow.

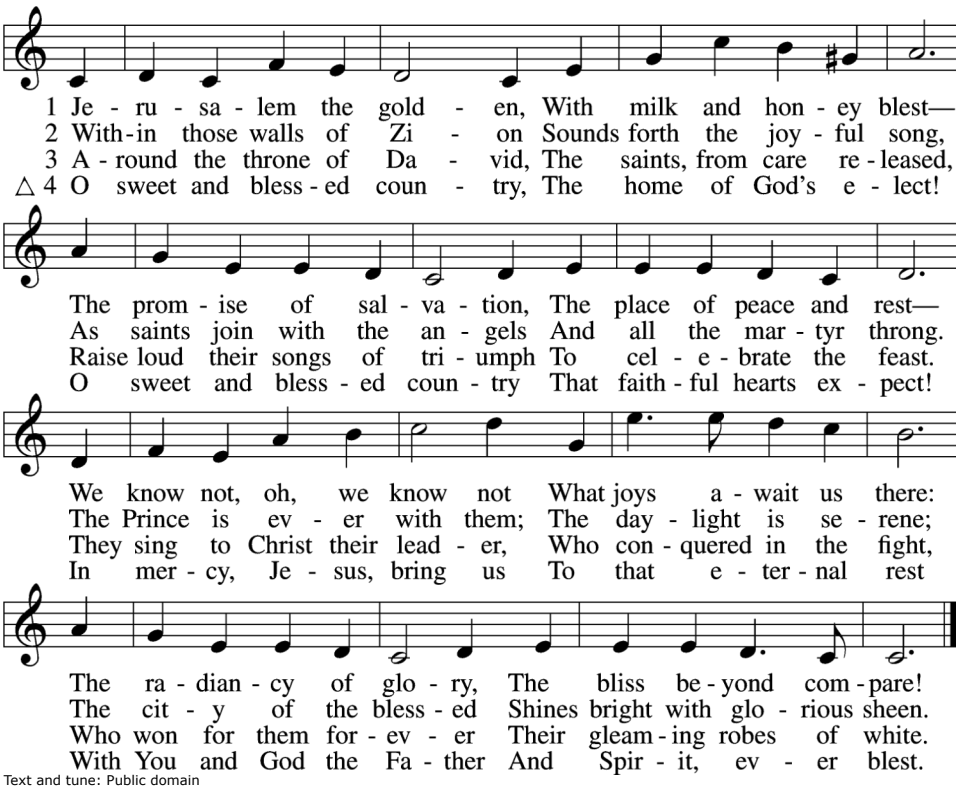
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SERMON ***"The final separation – it's personal!"*** Matthew 25:31-36

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Jerusalem the Golden* **LSB 672**



Text and tune: Public domain

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

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 and Father, You sent Your Son, our Shepherd, to gather Your sheep according to Your promise. Grant that all of us who have been brought into Your church through the washing of Holy Baptism join in Your ongoing mission of seeking those who have not yet been gathered. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock**.

P Heavenly Father, in Your Son You fulfilled Your Word in setting over us one Shepherd. Bless all pastors in their work as under-shepherds, that they faithfully point us to all that is good and right and true, and that we discern what is pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C rescue Your flock.

P Patient Lord, through Your prophet Ezekiel, You have made clear to us that You will be the one to judge Your sheep and to sort out the mess of this world. In times when we are tempted to take on that work ourselves, help us to remember that Jesus is the one who sits on the throne and that we can trust Him with that work. Lord, in Your mercy,

C rescue Your flock.

P Lord of Creation, in Your wisdom You have placed over us people with authority to watch over and protect us. Guide their staff and strengthen their shield that they use their offices for the good of all, especially those among us who are the most vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,

C rescue Your flock.

P Merciful Lord, You know the needs of Your sheep and all the ways they have been scattered and wounded. We lift before You all who are in need of care, [especially . . .]. Help us to see those You have set before us who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, and in need of welcome. Lord, in Your mercy,

C rescue Your flock.

P Lord of time and eternity, You alone know the true measure of our days. When our days seem long or when life feels brief, help us to hold on to Your promise of resurrection, that we remain steadfast in our gaze toward the new heaven and the new earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

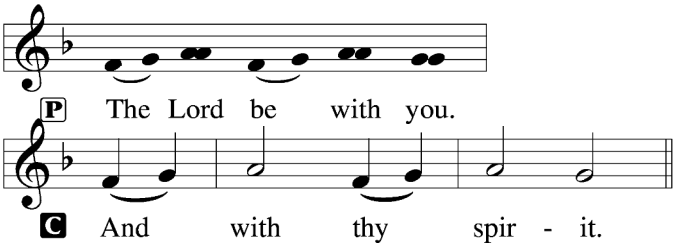
C rescue Your flock.

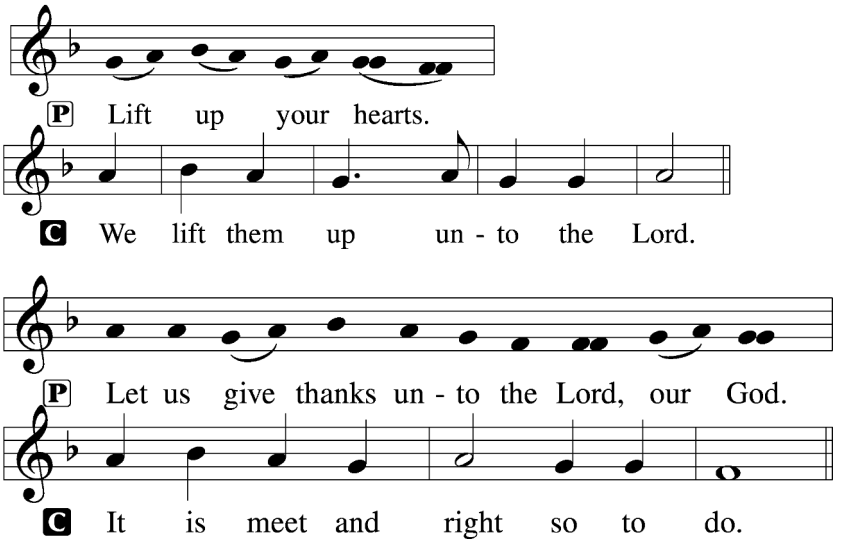
P For all these things and whatever else You know us to need, we ask of You, dear Father in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

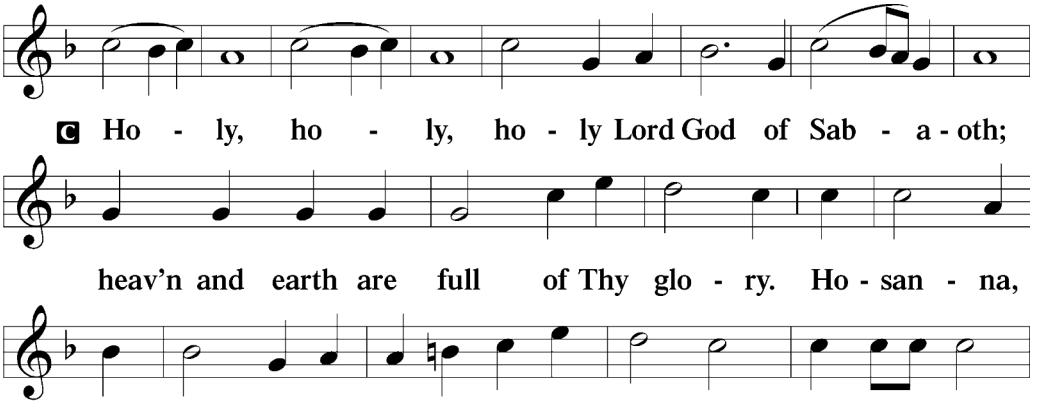
PREFACE

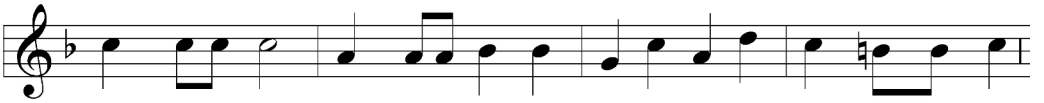


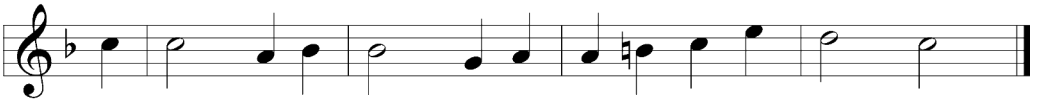


P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, 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

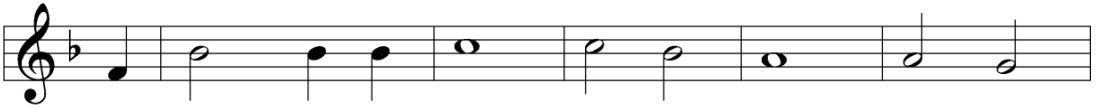


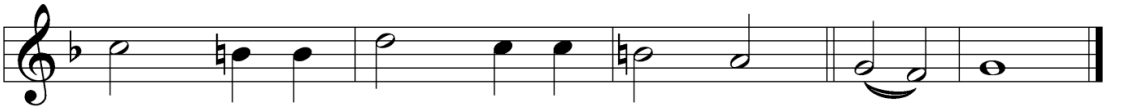




LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

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.



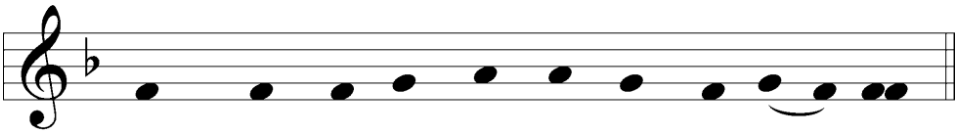


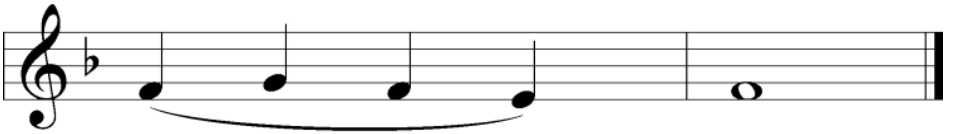
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

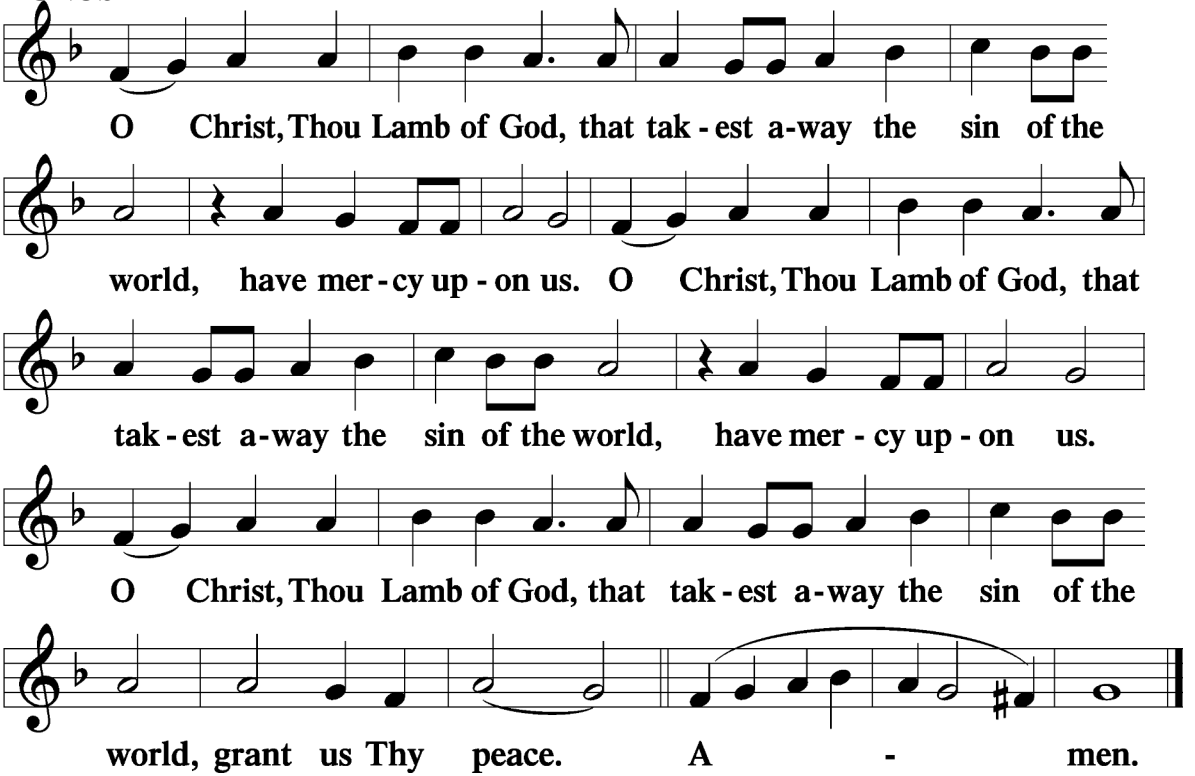
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI





AGNUS DEI



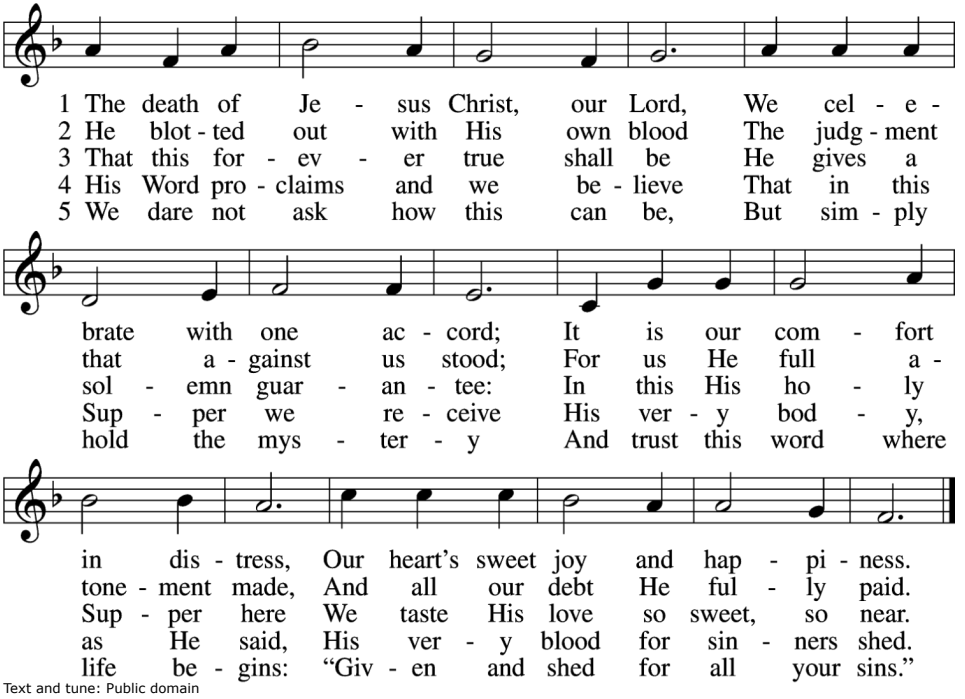
Please sit

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.

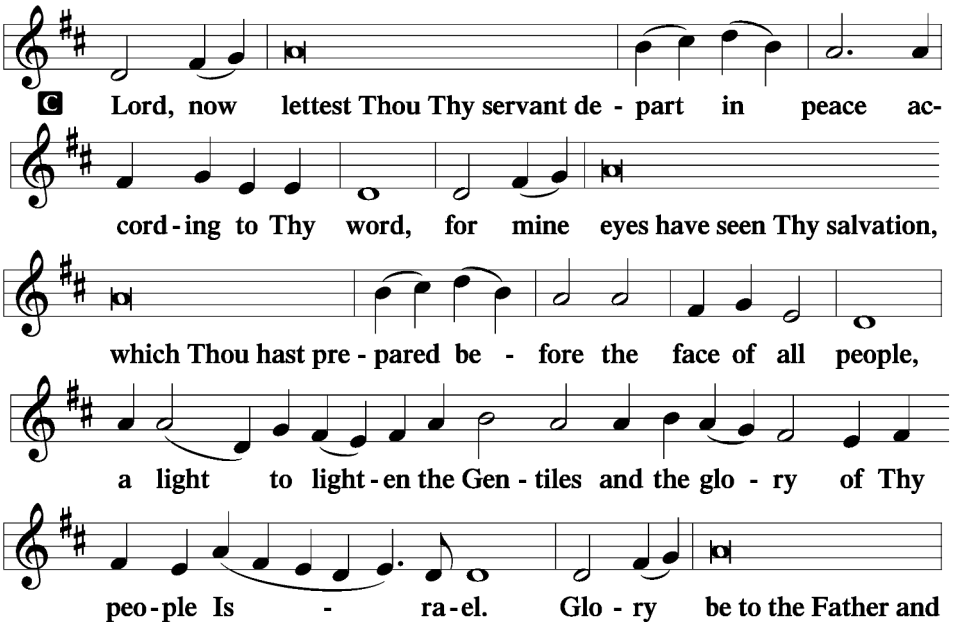
COMMUNION HYMN *The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord* **LSB 634 vs. 1-5**

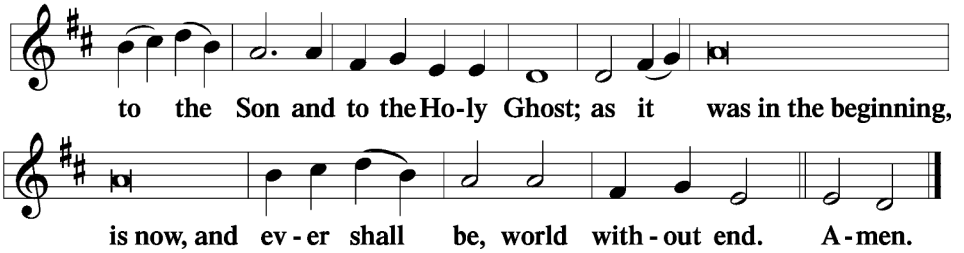


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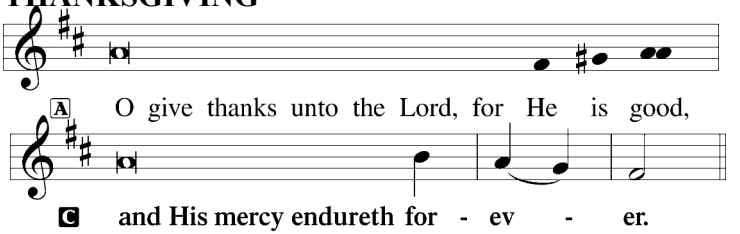
Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

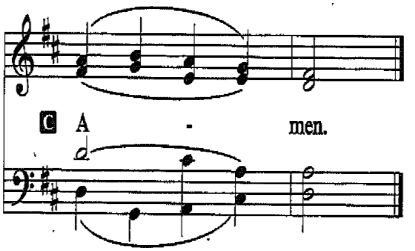




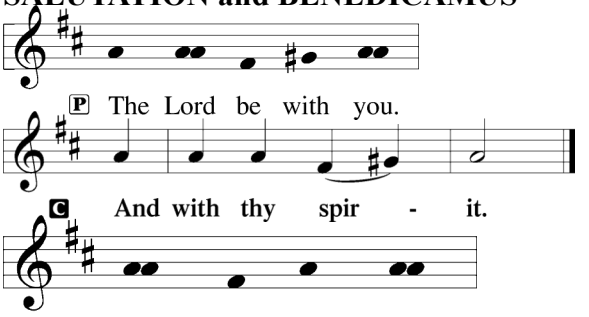
THANKSGIVING

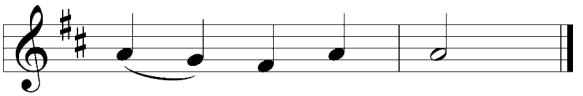


P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

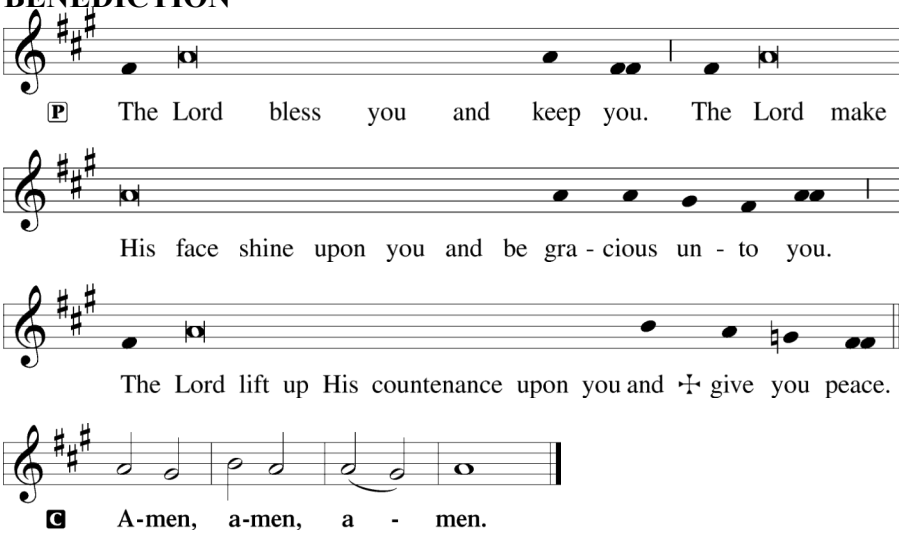


SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS



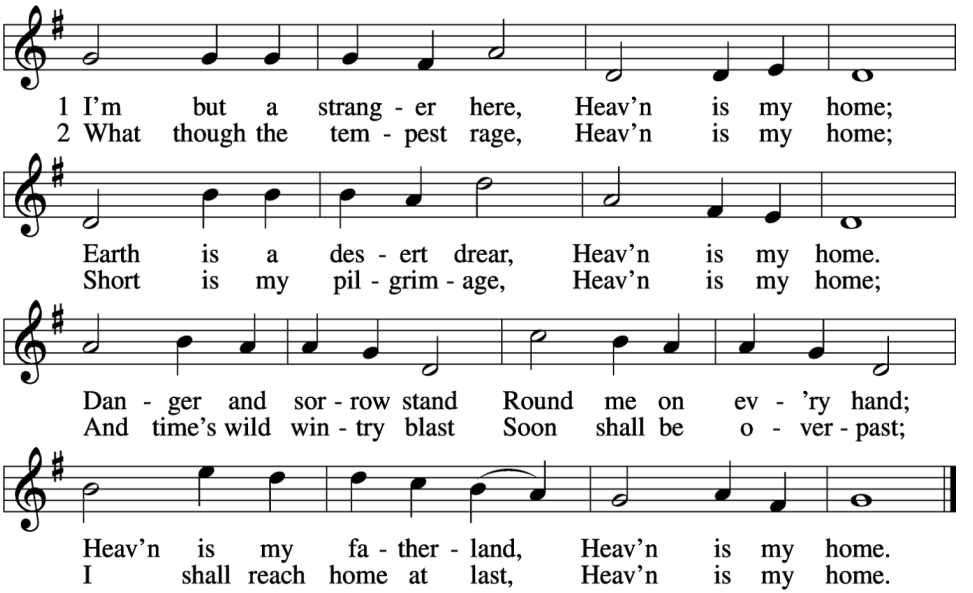


BENEDICTION



Please sit

SENDING HYMN *I'm But a Stranger Here* LSB 748



3 Therefore I murmur not,

Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot,
Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland,
Heav'n is my home.

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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. 23rd 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 15, 2026	
Sunday Worship:	**59**
Plate:	$ 811.00
Envelopes:	$ 2,163.00
Online/Tithely:	
Other: School/Turkeys/L.W.	$ 702.00
Memorial: Edna Reinke	$ 100.00
Other: Bible Class: **21**	$ 21.00
Total	$ 3,776.00

Budgeted need YTD:	$210,579
Actual Giving YTD:	$149,083
Overall/(shortfall):YTD	($61,496)
Budgeted Need Weekly:	$4,480
For church balances, see treasurers reports	

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *"he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats"* (Matt. 25:32). *"To those on his right,"* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But *"those on his left,"* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *"into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *"as a shepherd seeks out his flock"* (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *"the fat and the strong,"* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *"the lean sheep"* (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *"in Christ shall all be made alive"* by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).

Bible Memory Verse Challenge

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVEMT

November 29, 2026

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37

Biweekly Church Activity Schedule

	November Sunday Servants	**December Sunday Servants**
Elder:	Don Vogel	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	Laurie Brown/ Maggie Weber	D Jackson/L Marchant/I Aguilera
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This week:	***Last Sunday in the Church Year***	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30am
Next week:	***First Sunday in Advent***	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30am