The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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

Music welcomes us, draws us into an attitude of prayer and praise, and sets a tone for worship that God is present. Let us prepare for Worship!

GATHERING PRELUDE:
Reprise: Reflection on "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"..... Paul Manz
Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (Sanctuary Choir) .....Handt Hanson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

✢*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
All: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand* ..... **ELW 437**



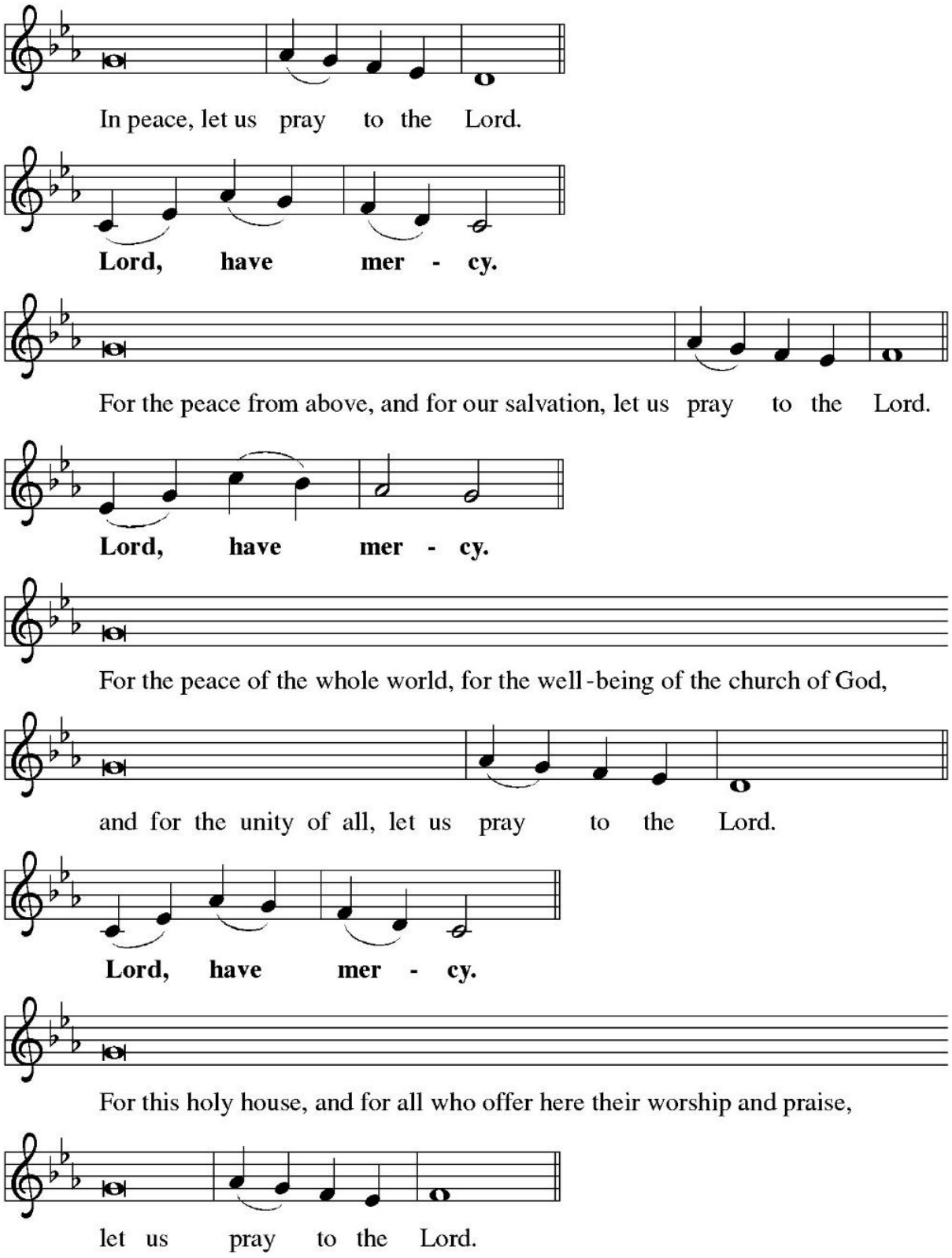
Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727–1795
Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836–1899

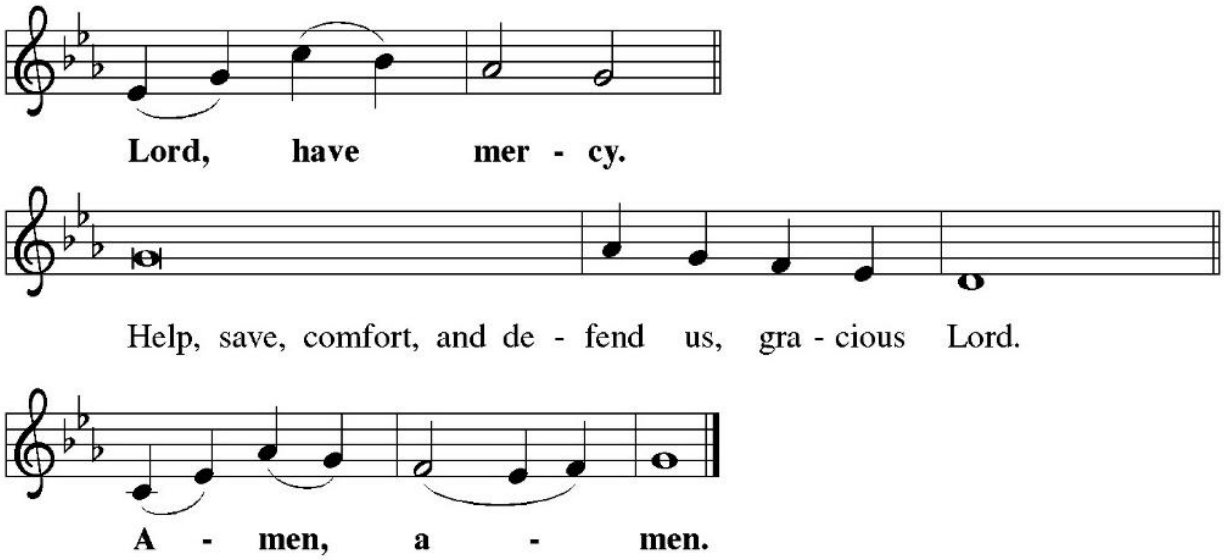
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

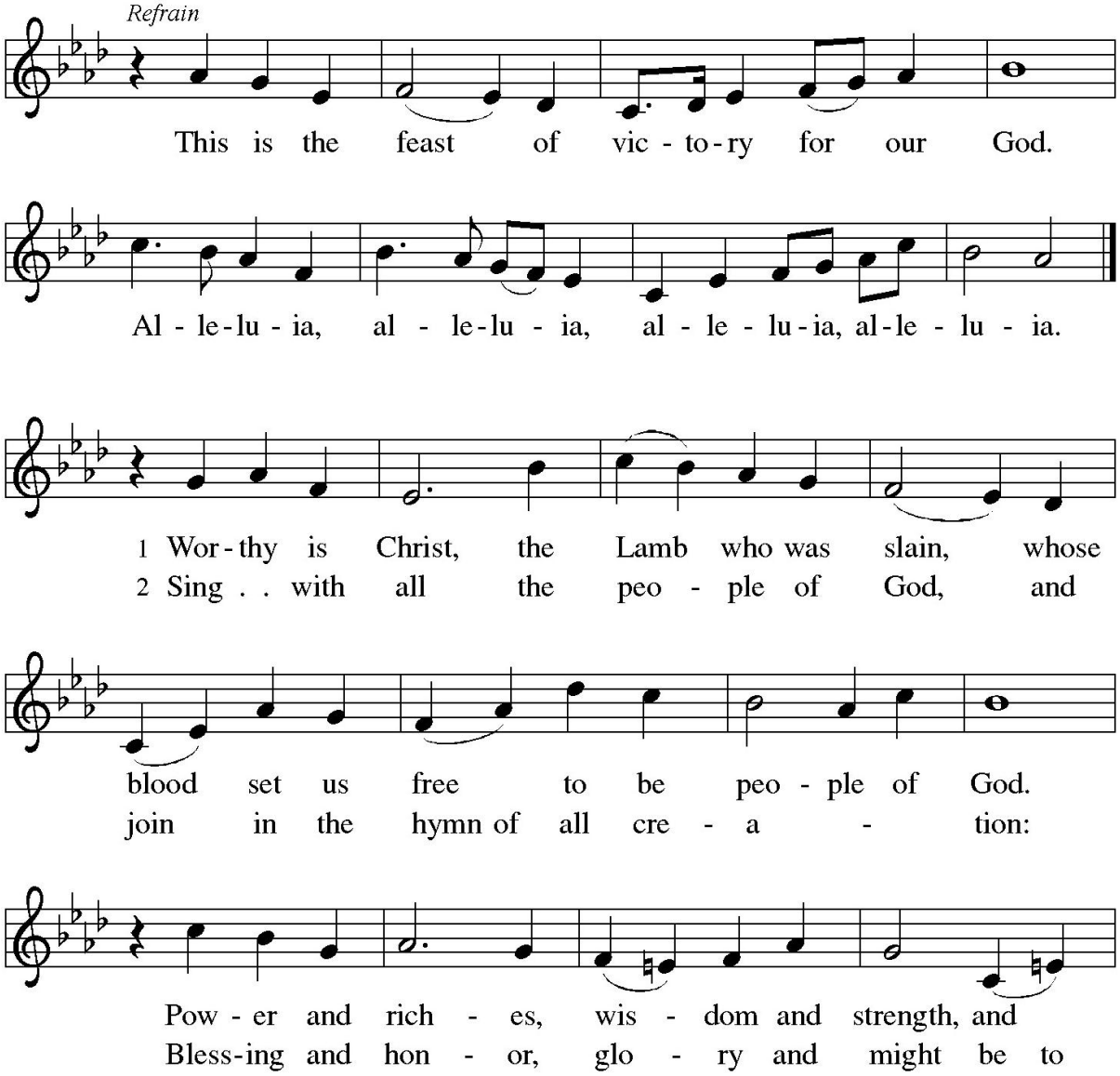
All: And also with you.

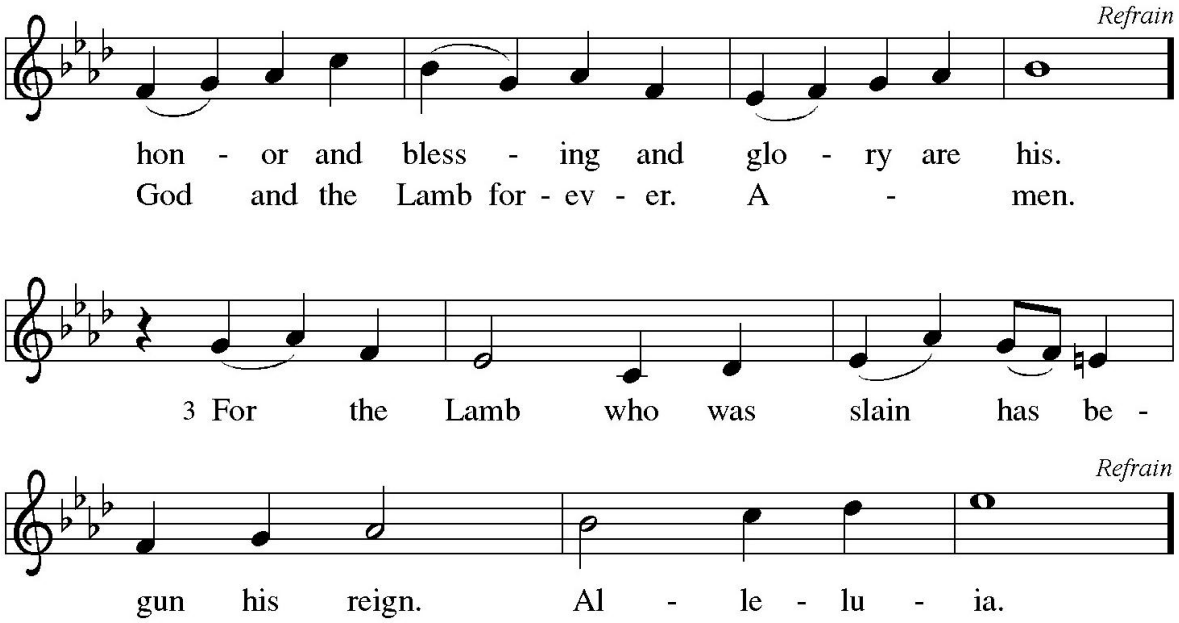
KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE: *This is the Feast*





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray… Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The congregation sits.

WORD ***God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.***

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

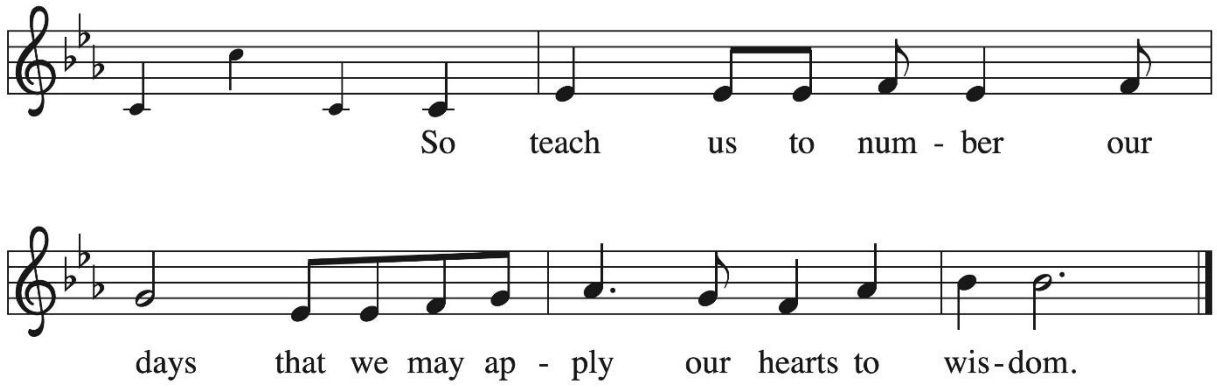
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

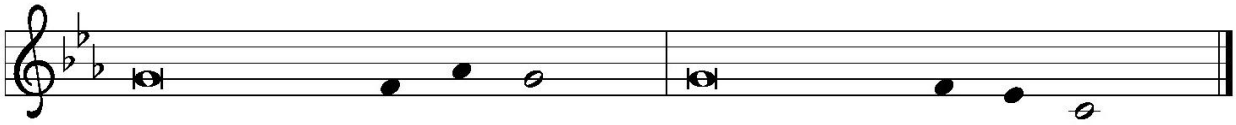
L: Word of God, word of life.
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90 (*Congregation sings the refrain and the **bold** verses.)*

Refrain:



Verse:



1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R
[5] you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R
[9] When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
[11] Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
[12] **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

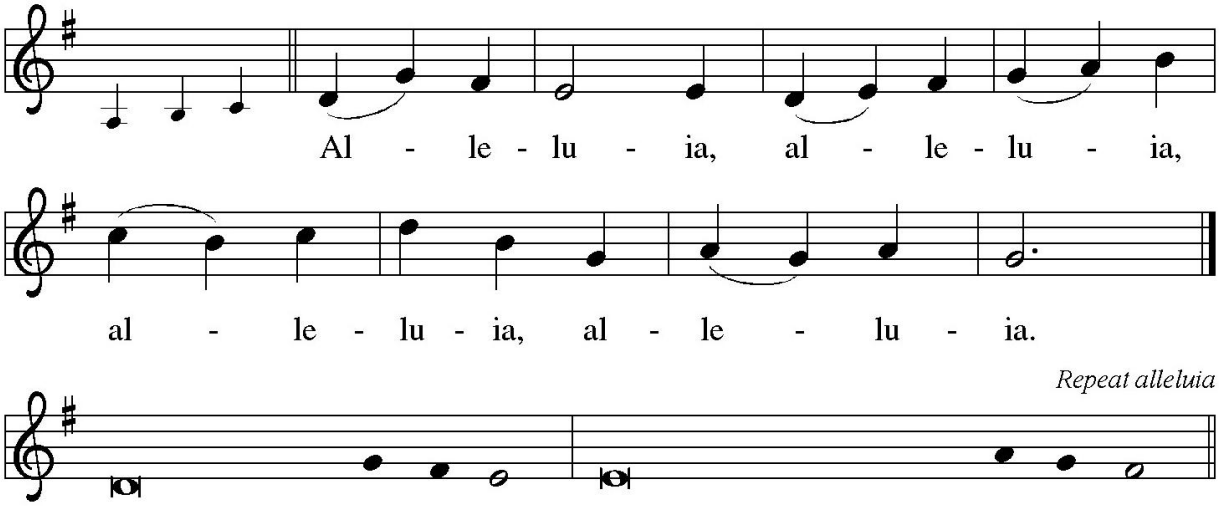
[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: Word of God, word of life.
All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia*

Refrain:



Abide in me as I a- | bide in you;* those who abide in me | bear much fruit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted
his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with
them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more
talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with
them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received
the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you
did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in
the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You
knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to
have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own
with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those
who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even
what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

The congregation sits.

SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* ..... **ELW 678**



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.
We 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.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The congregation sits.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: God, in Your mercy.
All: Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you.

MEAL ***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.***

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. While we are now passing offering plates during the service, you may still place your offering in the offering plates located at the entrance to the sanctuary or in the narthex. Or, you may make your offering online by scanning the QR code..

OFFERTORY HYMN: *As Saints of Old*..... **ELW 695**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

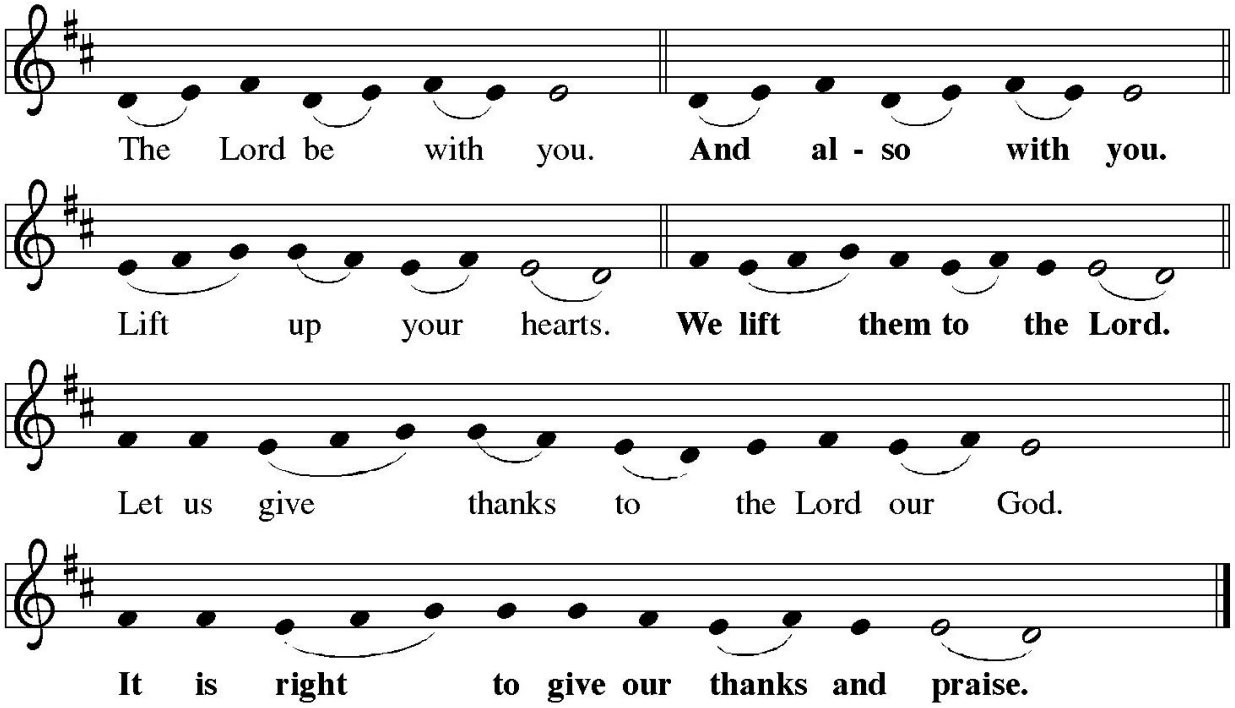
The congregation stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray... Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

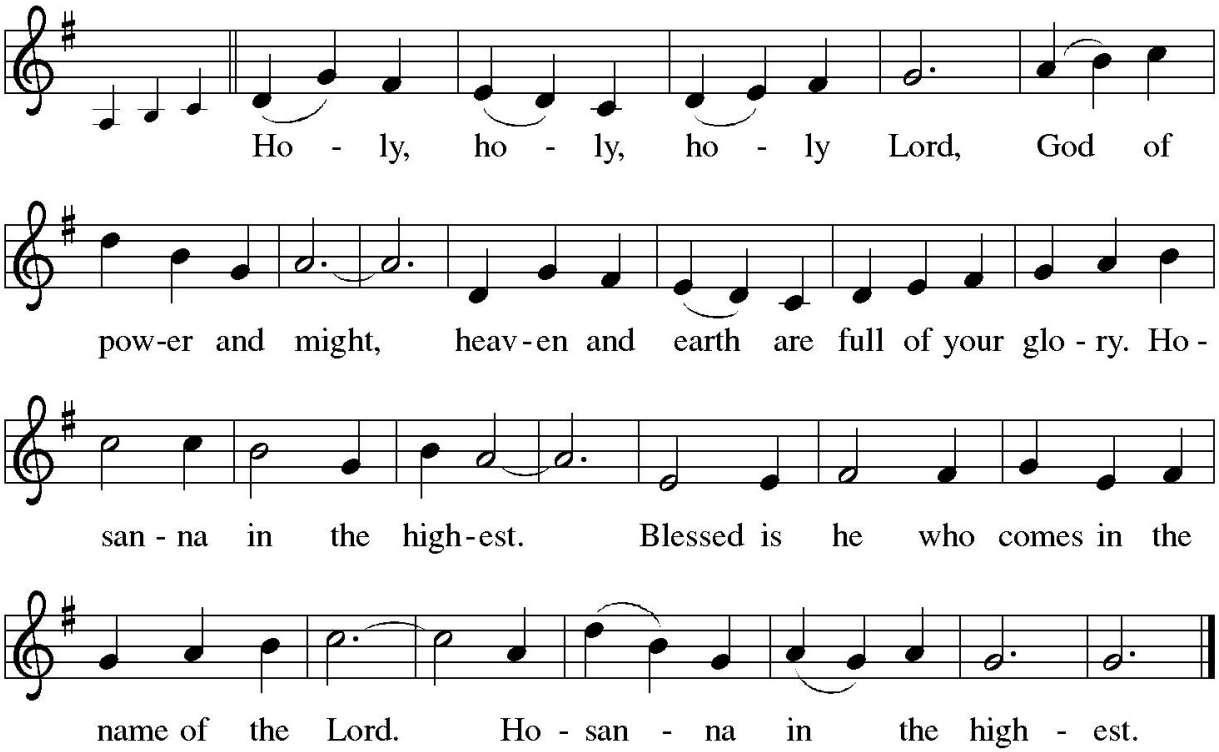
GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



PREFACE

P: ….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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

All: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

All: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

All: We thank you, O God.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread…Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

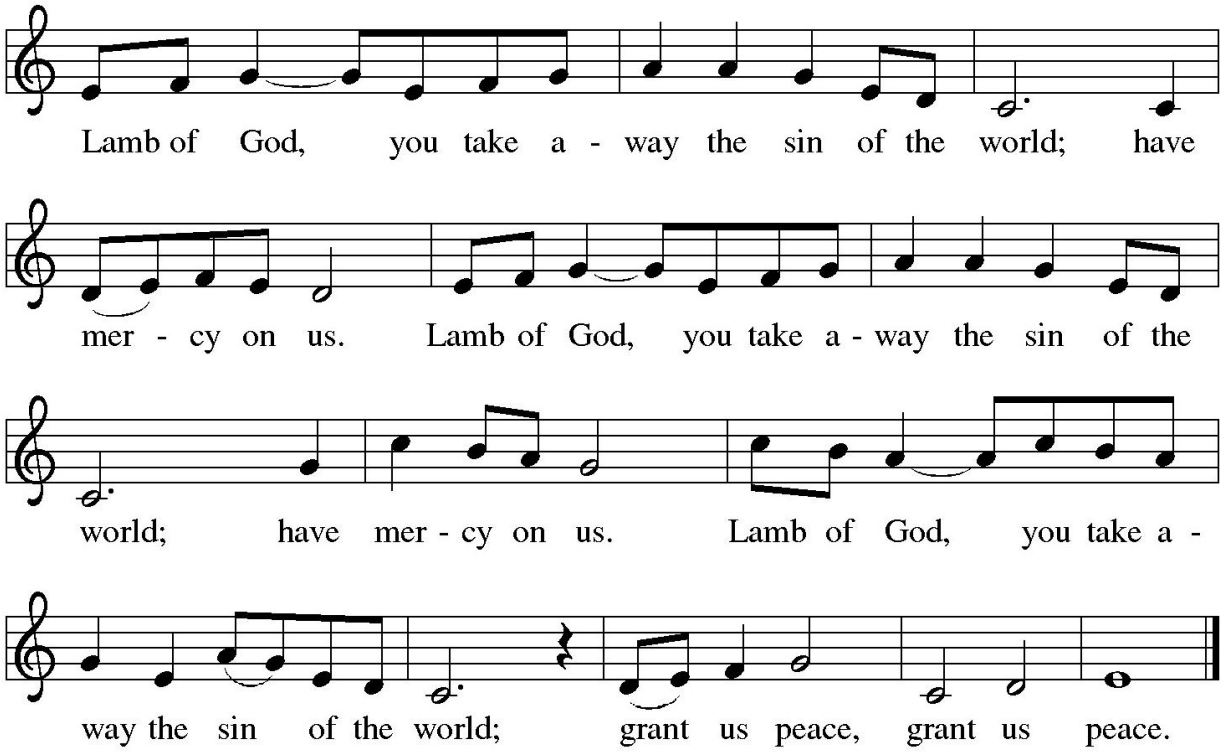
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC: *Light Dawns on a Weary World* ..... **ELW 726**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

The congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING ***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

BLESSING

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

All: Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* ..... **ELW 707**





Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *HYFRYDOL (Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us)* ..... Healey Willan

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: .....Rev. Susan E. Scott
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: .....Alan Hair
Assisting Minister: ..... Chip Haak
Reader: ..... Sarah Hancock
Altar Guild: .....Linda Boudman
Communion Set-up: ..... Jane Ebersole
Communion Assistants:..... JoEllen Myers and Joan Rizzo
Acolytes:..... Kiva Fox and Everett Birkholz
Livestream Team: .....Kirk Sponaugle, Jordan Paul, and Adam Gardner

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Bereaved: The Family of Herb Huebner

Prayer Concerns: Joe Brittain (friend of the Dunham's), Sharon Ellis (friend of the Dunham's), Linda Goldhart (relative of the Bishops), Christine Hall, Ann Jonell (friend of the Dunham's), Matthew Kulbacki, Larry Layman, Brian Lutz, Carol Miller, Jessica Noeske (Derek Dunham's cousin), Edward Sellard, Josh Snyder (nephew of Linda Lubold), Kathy Spitler (cousin of Marilyn Layman) and Vicki Sponaugle.

DAILY PRAYERS

Michael Fox, Virginia Frank, Dean Huebner, Sharon Murray, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all our **Homebound members:** Shirley Espenshade, Bill Fosnacht, Evadne Kopp, John and Ruth Knol, Carol Longenecker, Dennis Lubold, Chip Murray, Tookie (Delores) Peterson, Joyce Schroeder, Kay Smith, Susanne Wiest and Nila Wiley.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, and Tory Young.

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at htluth@comcast.net or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

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You are Welcome Here!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.