Sunday, November 15, 2026
The Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Sharing the Light!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin 53405
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve

Special thanks to assisting minister Sheri Krenzke, lector Roger Degerman, communion assistants Roger Degerman and Laura Gellott, audio-visual technician Kathy Berg, ushers Dave Barlament, Jim Buhler, Tim Krikau, and Gary Wee, altar guild Grace Deibert, Susan DiPasquale Peterson, Katie Peterson, and Lynn Sinclair, coffee fellowship Shelley Lussmyer, councilperson in charge Kylee Albright, the Senior Choir, Gregory Berg and organist Randy Fischer for sharing their time and talent with us today.
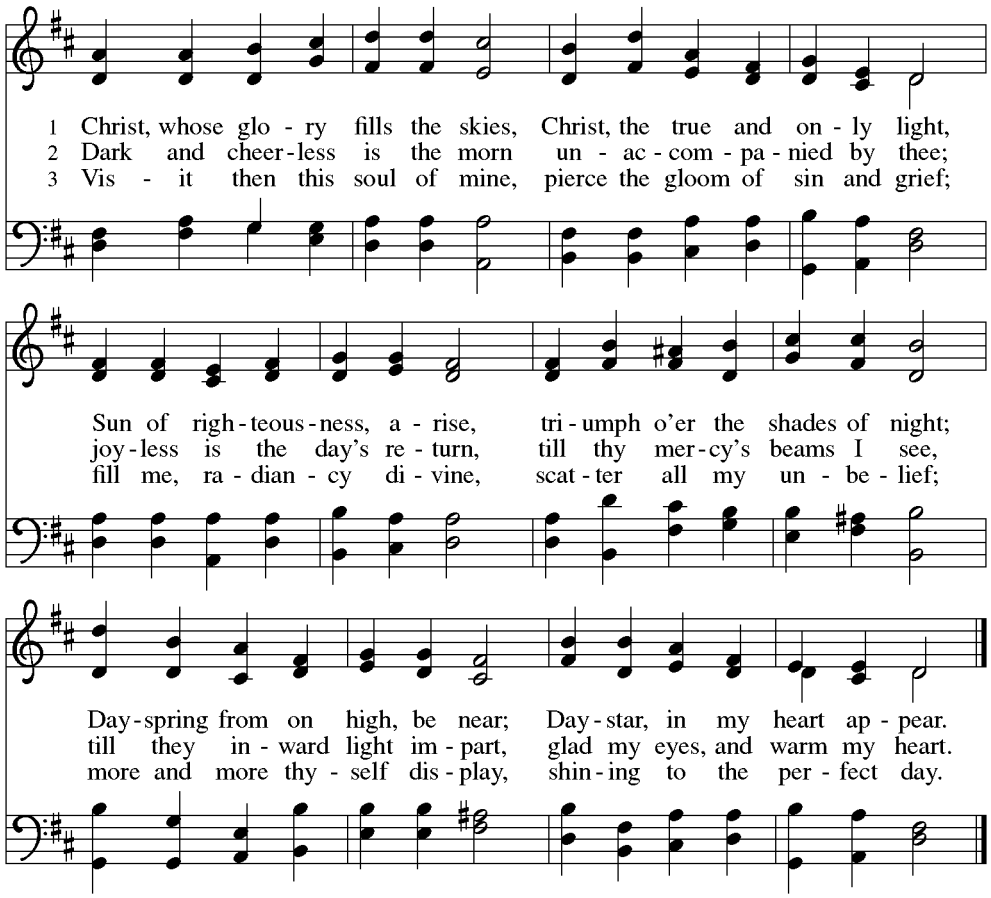
Please stand if you are able where there is an asterisk * in the bulletin.

PRELUDE (*a quiet time to reflect and prepare for worship)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG #553**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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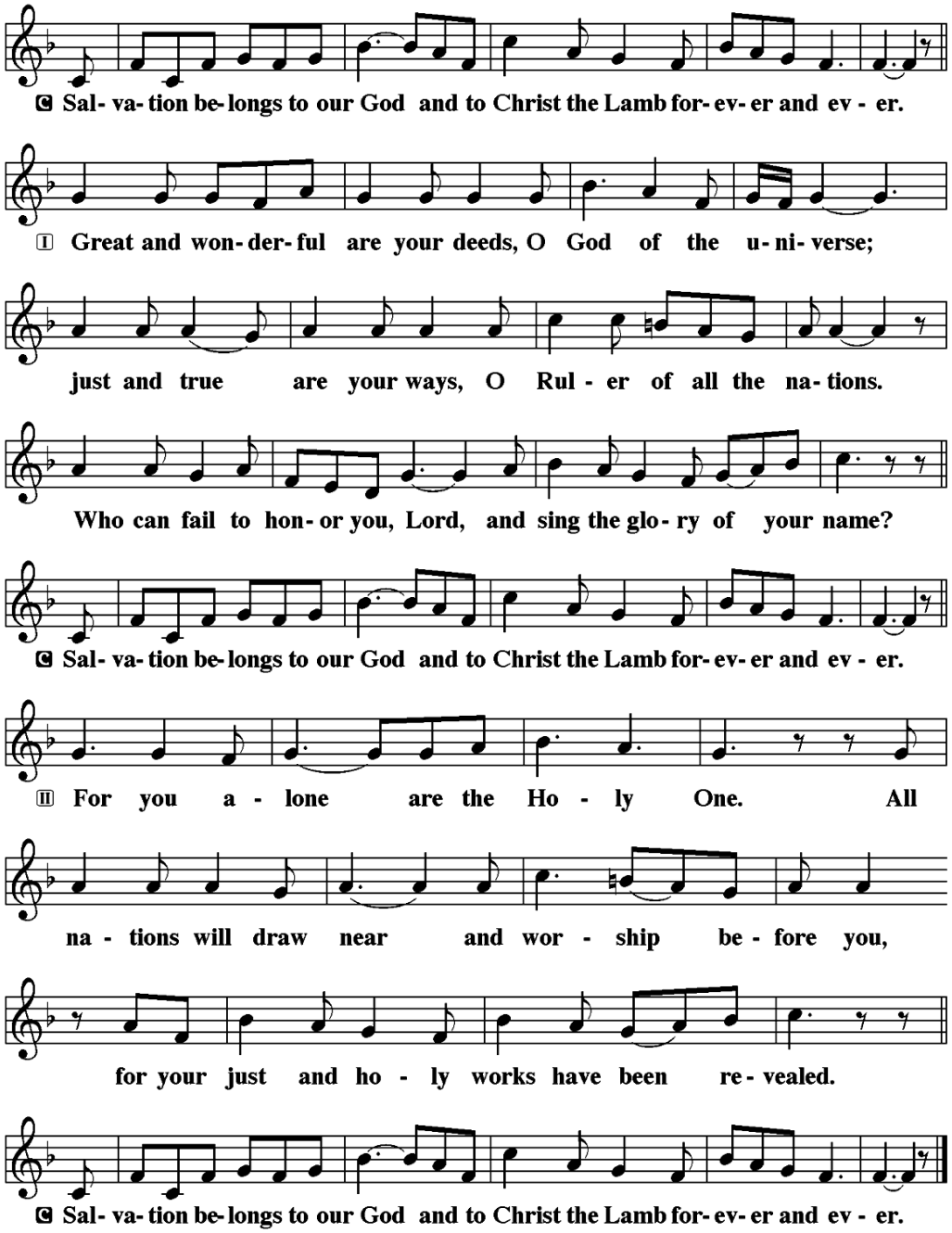
***GREETING:**
P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

You are the treasured people of the Lord,
a people holy to the Lord our God.

Keep the words of the Lord in your heart: teach them to your children.
Talk to them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down, and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

***SCRIPTURE SONG**



GREETING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
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. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Zion's Walls" (trad. American arr. Aaron Copeland) Senior Choir
Come fathers and mothers - Come sisters and brothers.
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lisa Lequia

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

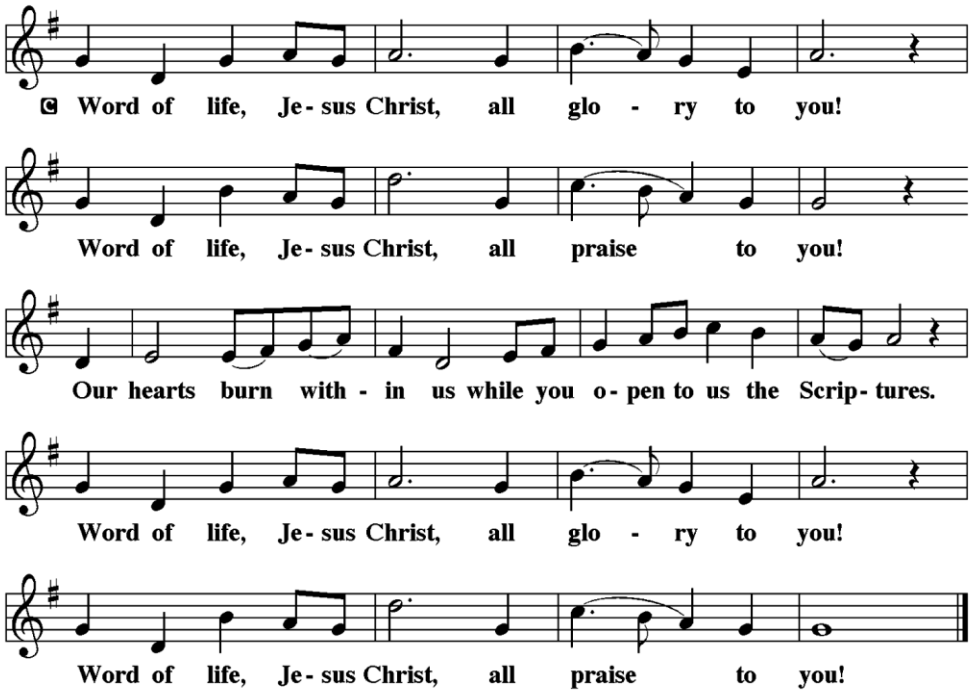
WORD
FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to
you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When
they say, "There is peace and security," 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8, 12
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 children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
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.
2 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Teach Us to Number Our Days"*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O God.

[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.' "

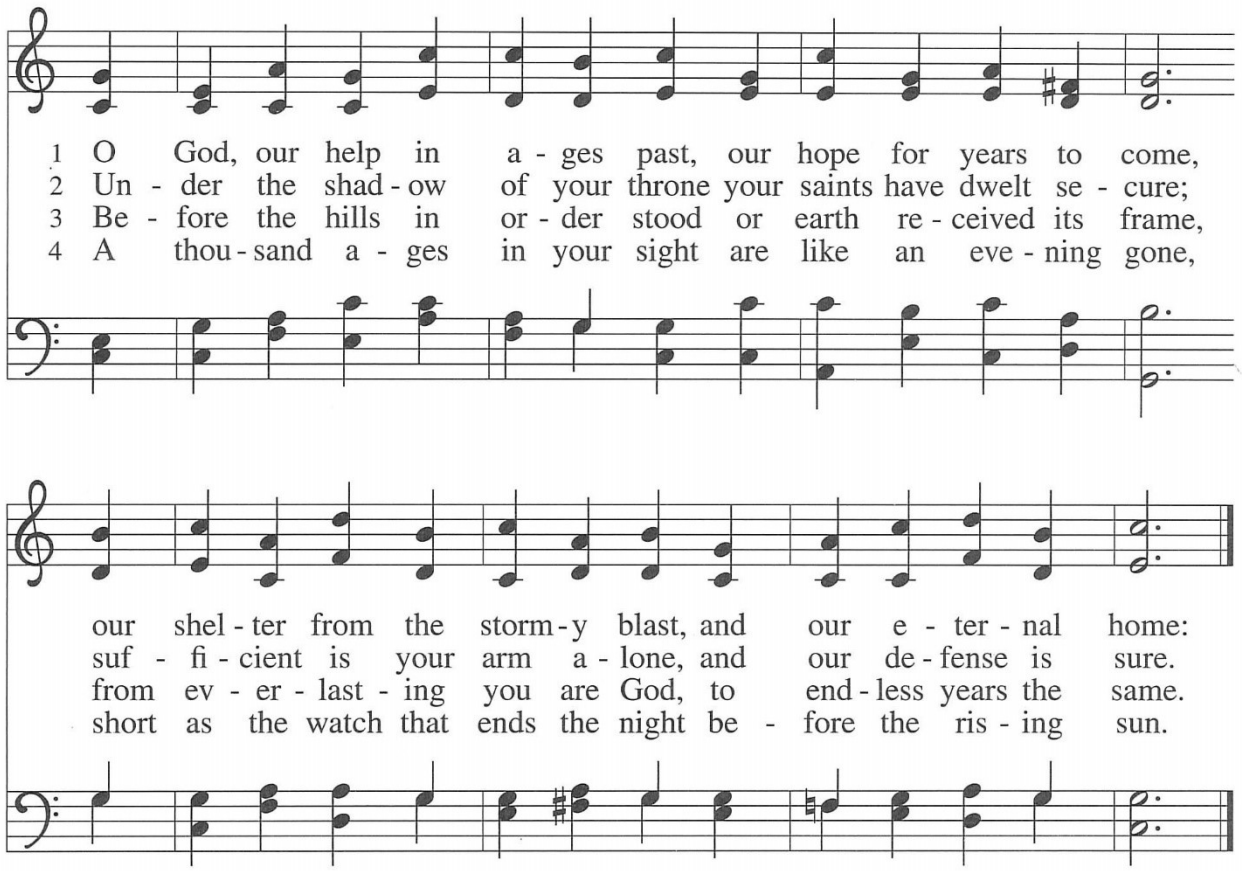
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **<u>Be Careful…. Be Generous</u>** **Pastor Mark Doidge**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #632**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past 632



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: William Croft, 1678–1727

ST. ANNE
CM

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***RESPONSE TO THE WORD**
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

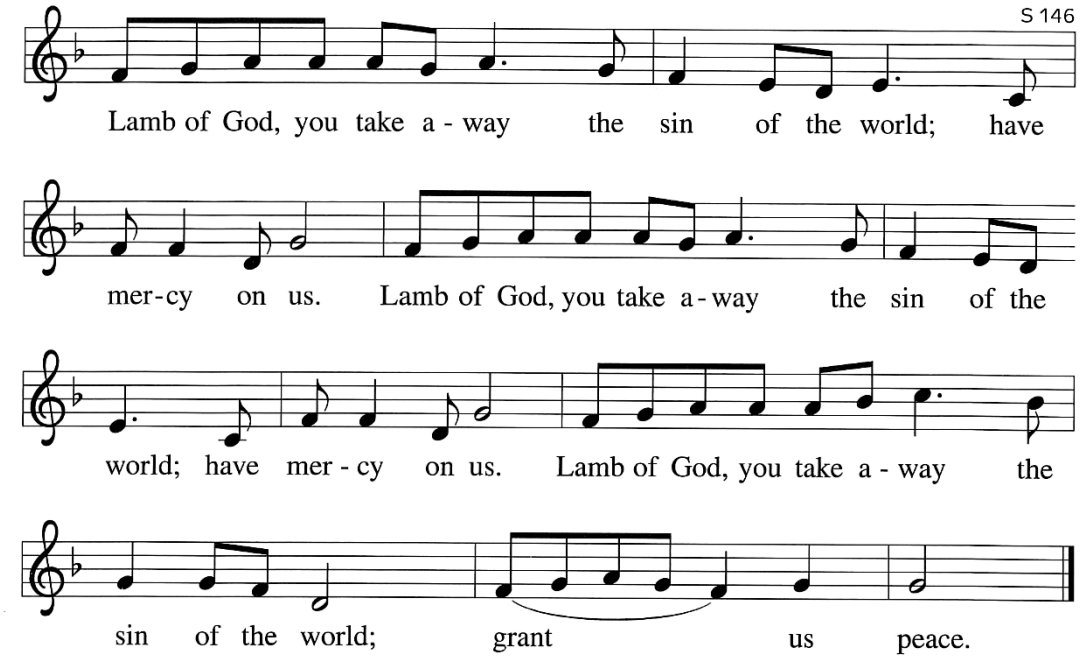
Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***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.

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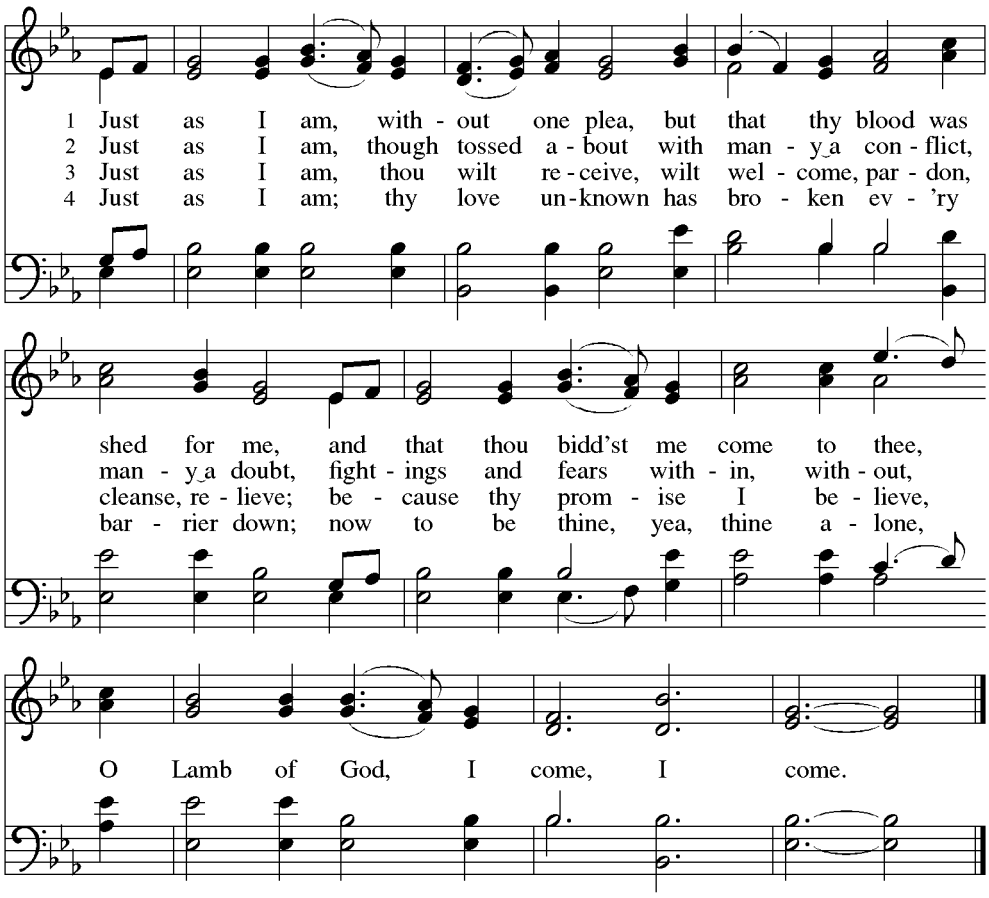
LAMB OF GOD



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COMMUNION HYMN #592

Just As I Am, without One Plea



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

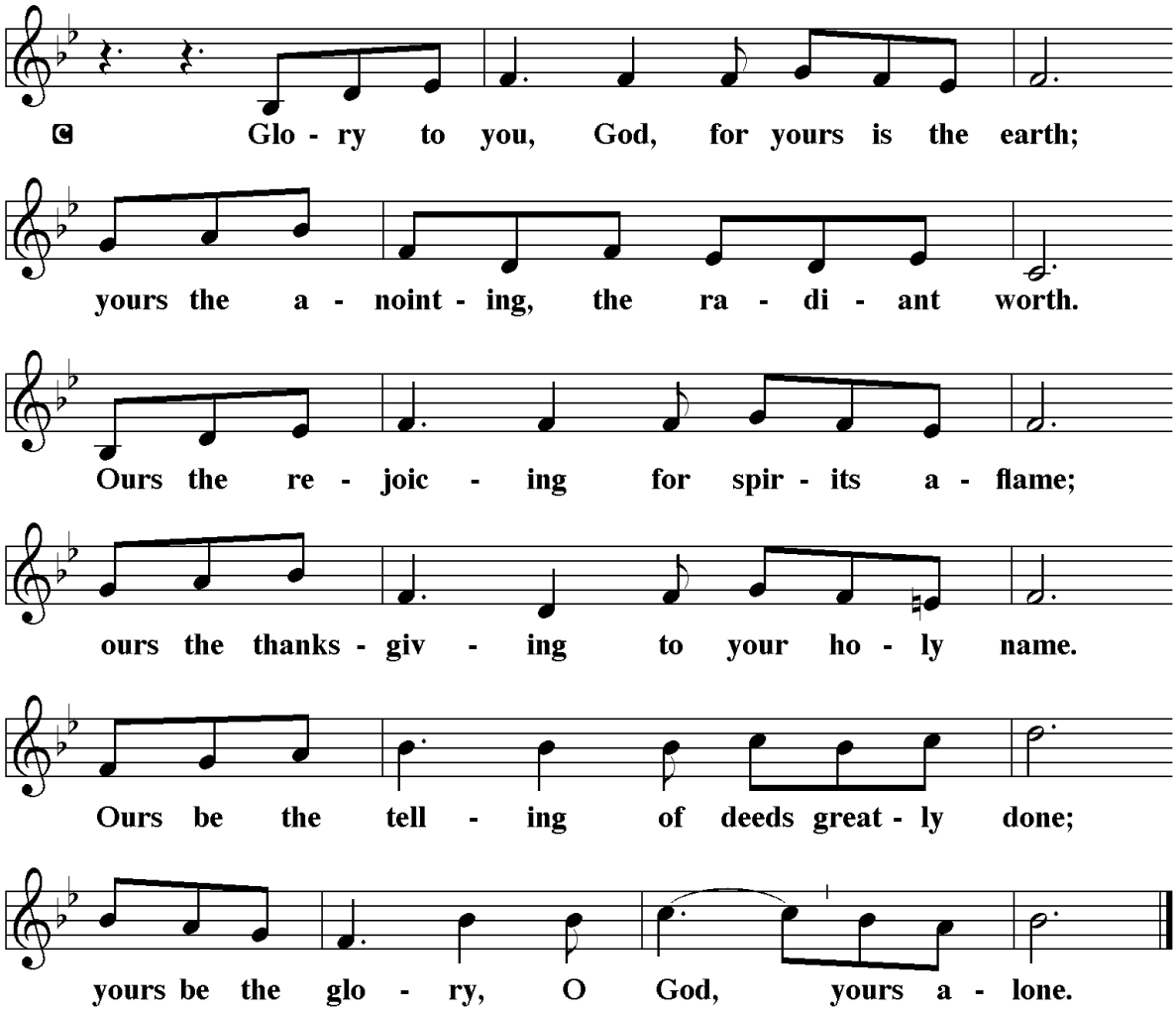
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PEACE
Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Let us pray. (brief silence)

Eternal God, You are the source of light and life, and everything that matters most is a gift from you. Keep us from unduly dwelling on life's disappointments and foster in us greater gratitude for all of life's blessings. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER .

You call us to carry your light into every aspect of our lives ..... at home, at work, at school, at play. Remind us of what it means to live out our faith and to love others as we have first been loved by you. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You love us exactly as we are, in spite of our flaws, and call us to see ourselves and one another more kindly and graciously. Enlarge our capacity to look beyond the shortcomings of others in order to see and appreciate their potential. And help us also to look beyond our own shortcomings, that we might fully embrace who you have created us to be. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You hold us close from the moment we are born to the moment we breathe our last breath. Teach us to number each and every day of our lives as a precious gift - and help us to be grateful for all that we experience and learn along life's journey. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

You intend for us to live beyond our own concerns and desires. Make us more mindful of the needs of others - especially those who have been marginalized in any way, or those for whom life is unjustly difficult. Open our eyes to the concerns of the wider community and help us to be bold in working for greater fairness and justice. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

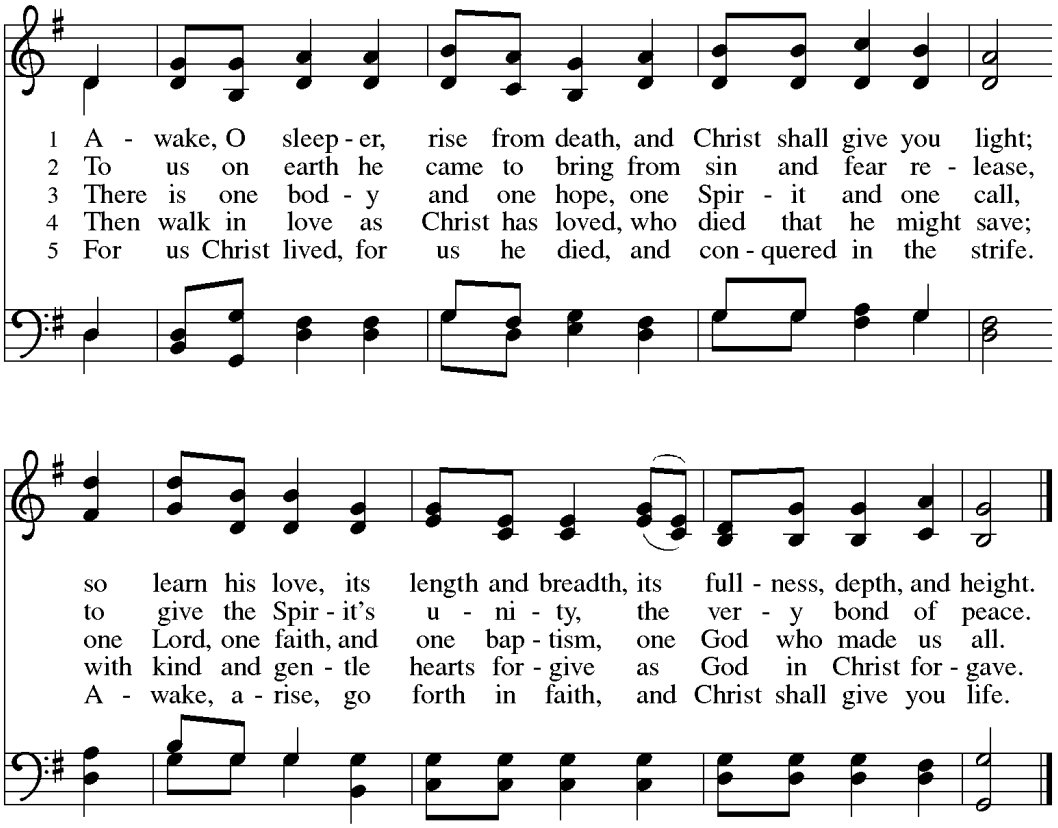
You promise to be with us when we are weary, in pain, or suffering in any way. Bless all who are weighed down by any hurt or sorrow. We especially remember .... Bless them and help us to be a blessing for them as well. Lord in your mercy,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Hear all of these prayers, both spoken aloud and shared silently, and grant us mercy sufficient for all our days, through Christ our Lord,
AMEN.

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

***CLOSING HYMN #452**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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***DISMISSAL**
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Announcements



Altar Flowers
The flowers on the altar this morning were given by Andrew, Jenny, Cameron & Jameson Palmgren in loving memory of Anders & Connie Palmgren, and in memory of Jean Veltman for her birthday November 20th, given with love by Matt & Brett, Megan & Tyler, and Ace and Avery.

Welcome Visitors!
A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after worship for coffee and a time of fellowship.

Communion By Intinction
All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice of wine). There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. If you feel more comfortable communing in your pew, there are individual cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

Adult Education After Worship – MJCI Shalom
Join us in the lounge following worship on Sunday, November 15th, to learn more about MJCI Shalom, one of our tithe recipients.

MJCI Shalom is a locally led organization in Rwanda focused on community development and peacebuilding. They empower their community through agricultural and vocational training, nutrition support, access to clean drinking water, and savings groups.

This organization holds a special connection to our congregation—it was founded by a friend whom Laura Hermanns and Lynn Helmke met during Laura's time in Rwanda with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Come hear more about their inspiring work!

Advent-ure Together Event Next Sunday
The Advent season begins on Sunday, November 27th. To help us prepare our hearts and minds for the season, we are having an "Advent"-ure event for people of all ages. Plan to stay after the worship service on Sunday, November 22nd! We'll gather right after the worship service. We will have fun activities and crafts for people of all ages, and of course some goodies to enjoy! .Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Diaper Ministry Christmas Party
The Diaper Ministry Christmas Party gift tags are available this week on the tree in the Welcome Center off of the lounge. We'll be refilling the tree as more names become available, but right now if you can limit to one tag per family with a gift amount of $25 - $35 per child, we'd appreciate it! Please wrap your gifts and include the original tag from the tree with your gifts. We ask that all gifts are returned to church by November 29th to give us time to organize them before the party on December 5. As always, we thank you for your generosity! Questions? Text or call Lynn Helmke at 262-497-3097.

Scrip Orders for Christmas - DUE BY DECEMBER 6th
Get your Christmas Orders in by Sunday December 6th and you'll have them between December 13th and 20th for pick up! There are so many different cards to choose from! Check out what is available at the SCRIP website: https://www.raiseright.com/shop

If you are unfamiliar with SCRIP, it's a gift card program that allows you to purchase gifts cards for giving or your own use and gives church a rebate on each purchase, ranging from 1-20%, depending on the card. See Kylee Albright or Joleen Carlson after church with any questions. It's a great way to give to church without any cost to you!

HCLC Food Pantry Updates and Requests for Donations
We're beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving and could use donations of the following: Chicken/Turkey stuffing mix, Jiffy cornbread mix, evaporated milk (12 oz), canned pumpkin (15oz), gravy mixes, instant mashed potatoes, jello, and bar soap. We also appreciate monetary donations for turkeys and are grateful for new or gently used children's books. Donations can continue to be dropped off M, W, or F from 9am-12pm at the food pantry, otherwise, in the HCLC church office or narthex. We are so grateful to all our volunteers and church partners for making this ministry possible!

Poinsettia Orders
It is poinsettia ordering time. This year all the plants will have white flowers. The cost for each plant is $16.00. Plants can be picked up after the 10:30 Christmas Eve worship service or on Sunday, December 27th. There are order forms on the tables in the back of the sanctuary, in the office, and in the Welcome Center. All orders must be in the office by Wednesday, December 2nd, to be guaranteed.

Diaper Ministry
Thank you to Cathie Rolfson who sponsors this month's Diaper Depot delivery in honor of Shelley Lussmyer!

Please support our diaper ministry kids and families by participating in our Christmas Gift Giving Tree.

Our November distribution dates are November 25th from 4 - 6PM and December 9th from 11AM – 1PM. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with questions or to volunteer.

Third Tuesday Bible Study
THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet November 17th from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Julie Burton. Discussion is on Acts chapters 21 and 22, pages 179-192 in William Barclay. Luke is writing a first-hand account of Paul's journey from Ephesus to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. There Paul faced the fury of the Jews and the protection of the Roman soldiers. Bring your translations to add variety to the discussion. Meet November 17th at Julie Burton's home, 136 Steeplechase Drive, at 10:00.

Worship Service Volunteers Needed!
The worship committee is looking for new faces to serve in a variety of ways during worship and we would love to have the youth involved. We are looking for both individuals or families who would like to participate and serve on the altar guild, be ushers, readers, communion assistants, assisting ministers, and greeters. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Put your name on the sign up sheet in the lounge to let us know which areas you would like more information about or are interested in or want to volunteer for. Thanks!

Upcoming Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship Opportunities
Sunday, November 15 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
10:30 Adult Education – MJCI Shalom
11:00 Confirmation Class
Monday, November 16 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, November 17 – 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study
Friday, November 20 – 12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, November 22 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
10:30 Advent-ure Together With Us Event
Monday, November 23 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, November 24 – 1:00 Quilters
Wednesday, November 25 – 4:00 – 6:00 Diaper Ministry
Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving – Office Closed
Friday, November 27 – Office and Food Pantry Closed

Holy Communion Church Council
President Joleen Carlson, Vice President Gary Wood, Secretary Laurie Knudson, Treasurer Kylee Albright, Members at large Rose Adamski, Steve Barootian, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman

Office hours Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Finance Update

September Finance Numbers		Year to Date Finance Numbers	
Revenue:	$ 39,459.89	Revenue:	$ 381,659.00
Expense:	$ 50,158.79	Expense:	$ 421,024.31
Net Income:	$ (10,698.90)	Net Income:	$ (39,365.31)

In-person worship attendance on Sunday, November 8, 2026 - 117 Households watching worship online - 23