Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026



"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord.
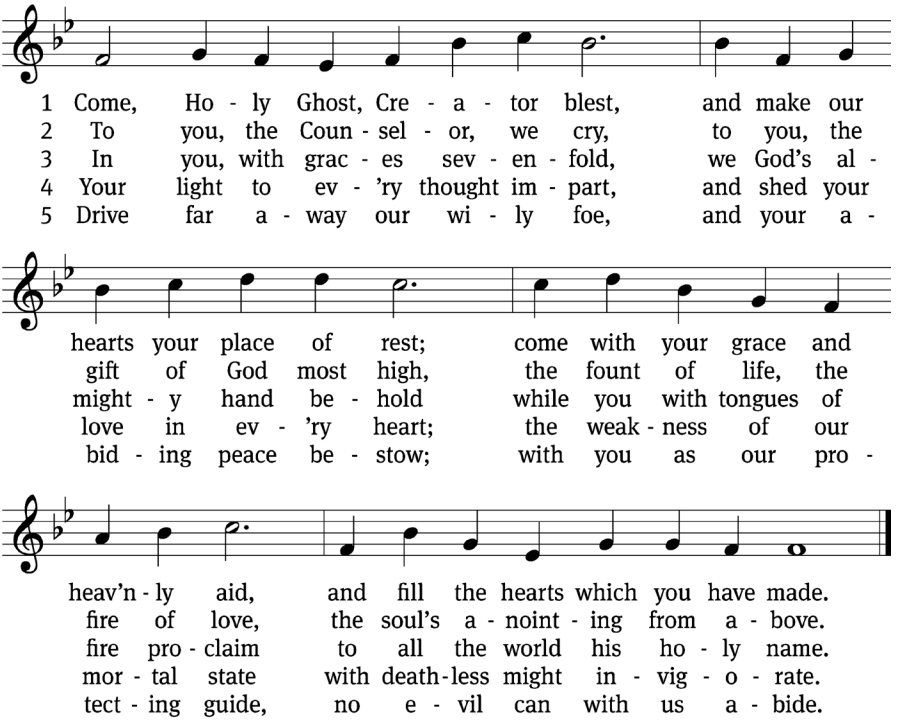
When people know their time on earth is drawing short, it is wise to put their affairs in order for the sake of those they love. So what is the appropriate response when you know that the second coming of Christ is approaching?

God doesn't give us a command to be idle. Jesus has not yet returned because there is still work to be done. And Jesus carries out his good work through us. Through his Word, he forgives us and keeps shaping us into the people he wants us to be, people in whom the Word dwells.

So until he comes again and says, "Stop!" we will be busy with faithful service. It's the beginning of the end, and we use our gifts and talents in an orderly way for God's glory.

Hymn #586 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

Please stand for the last verse.



Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution
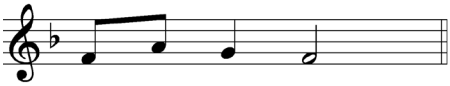
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.
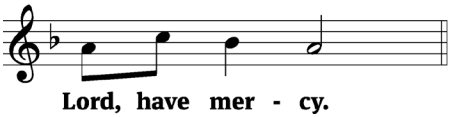
Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

The Kyrie is not a second confession, but a plea for God's help in every need.
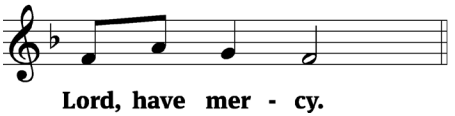
In peace let us pray to the Lord.
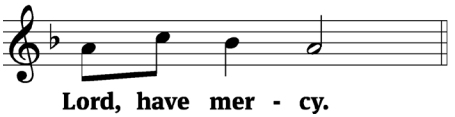


For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
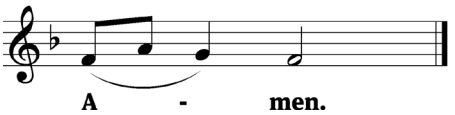


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



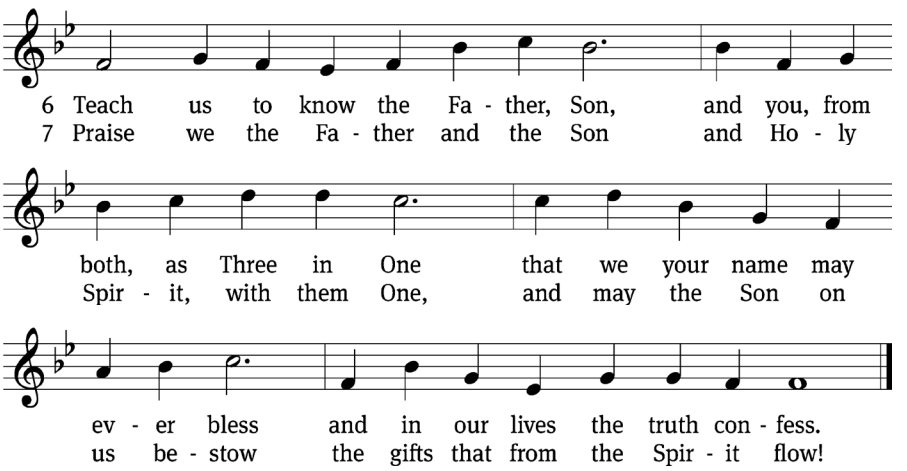
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Hymn of Praise

We praise the God who has answered our plea for mercy in Christ, and whose Spirit keeps it close to our hearts.



The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading — Isaiah 1:10–18

Old Testament Israel worship was rank with begrudging service. Yet God provided the way to clean their hands and their hearts, by remaining faithful to his promises.

10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
11 "The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.
Your hands are full of blood!
16 Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
17 Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.
18 "Come now, let us settle the matter,"
says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Take the world but give me Jesus!
All its joys are but a name.
But his love abides forever,
Thru eternal years the same.

Refrain
O the height and depth of mercy,
O the length and breadth of love.
O the fullness of redemption,
Pledge of endless life above.

Take the world but give me Jesus,
Sweetest comfort of my soul.
With the Savior watching o'er me,
I can sing tho' billows roll. ***Refrain***

Take the world but give me Jesus,
in his cross my trust shall be.
Till with clearer, brighter vision,
Face to face my Lord I see. ***Refrain***

Words by Fanny J. Crosby
Music by Paul and Donna Williams, arr. John F. Wilson. © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.

Second Reading — Romans 12:1–8

With God's mercy in view, we use God's gifts faithfully in joyful response.

[1]Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to
offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is
your true and proper worship. [2]Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able
to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
[3]For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of
yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with
sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each
of you. [4]For just as each of us has one body with many members, and
these members do not all have the same function, [5]so in Christ we, though
many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6]We have
different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is
prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; [7]if it is serving,
then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; [8]if it is to encourage, then give
encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it
diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
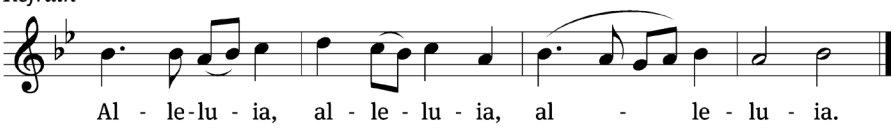
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation — Revelation 2:10

Refrain



Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Refrain

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Gospel — Matthew 25:14–30

Through a parable, Jesus calls his followers to faithful service.

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants
and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to
another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.
Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of
gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.
17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man
who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled
accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought
the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold.
See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have
been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you
entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have
been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he
said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown
and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and
went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to
you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I
harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?
27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so
that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

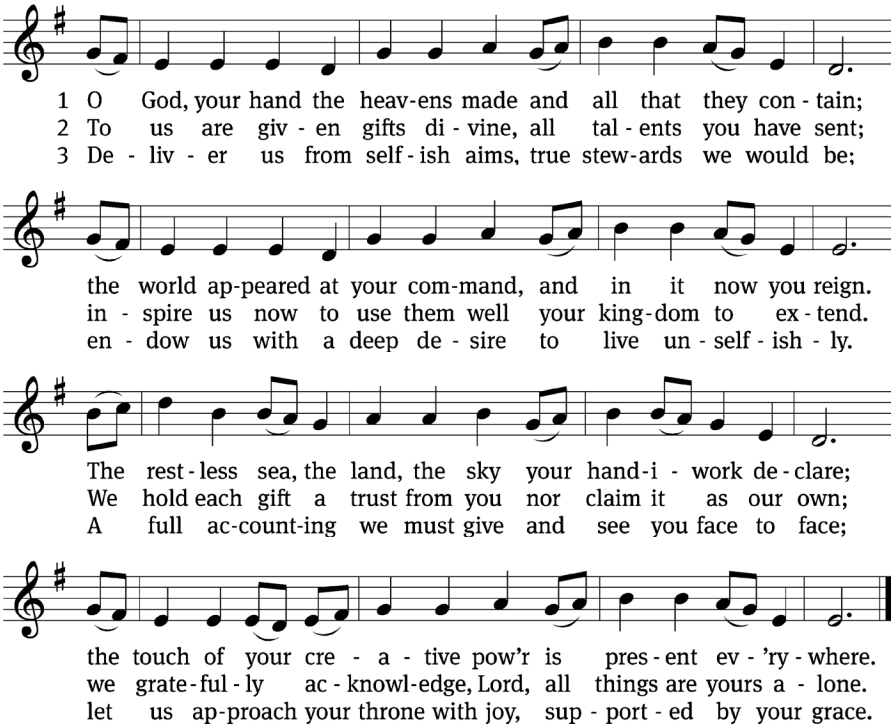
28 " 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has
ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an
abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken
from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made



Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904–2001Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.
Text: © 1961, ren 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Sermon Isaiah 1:10-18

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at subsplash.com/u/-MV95PX/give.
Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.

Offering Prayer

Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the glory of a life lived in service to you, to see the gifts you have given us to employ, and to see the joy of eternal life that you promise to give to others through our proclamation of salvation in Jesus.

Amen.

The Sacrament

Please stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

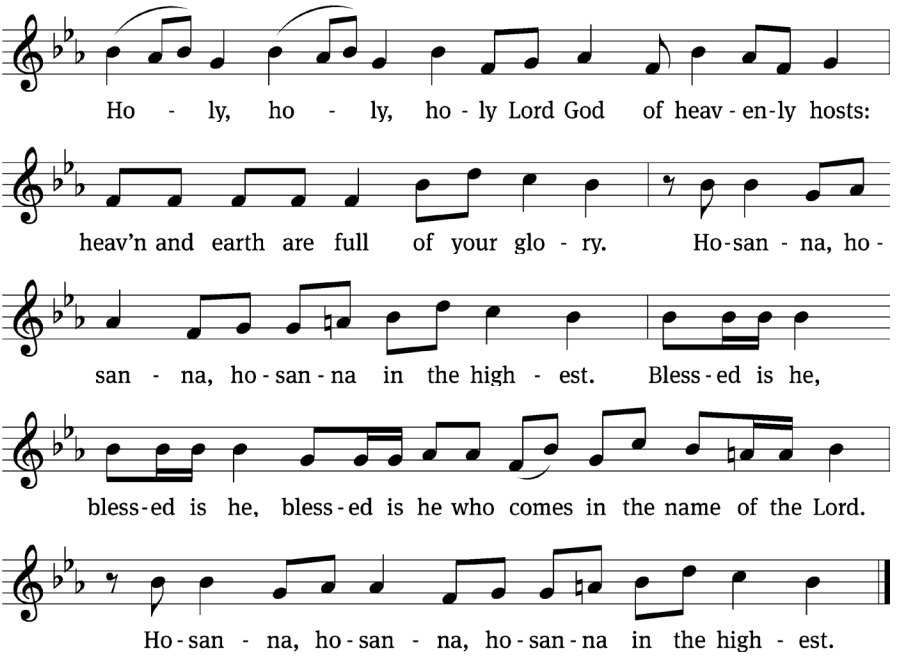
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory . Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The 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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

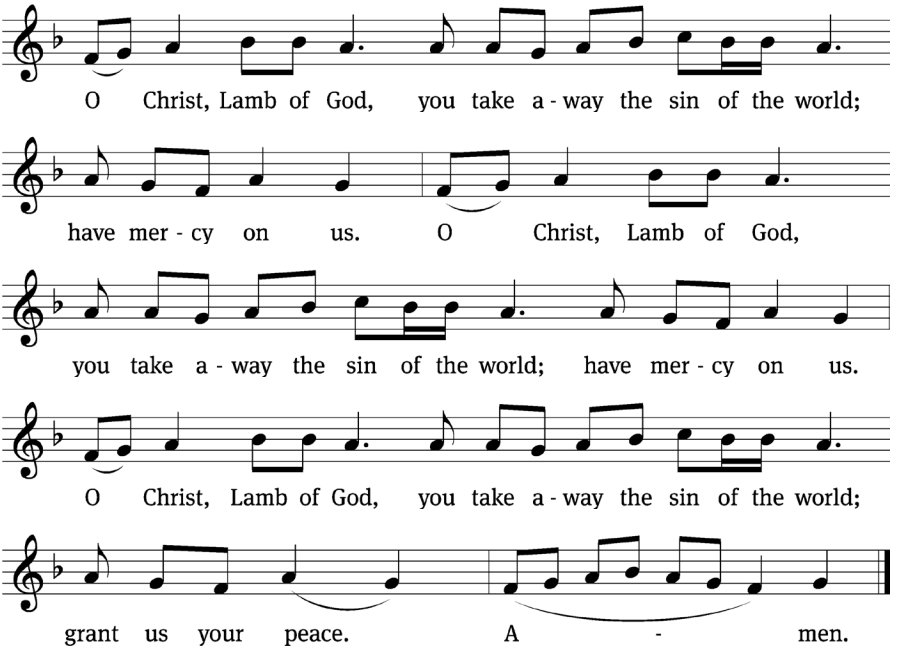
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Oh Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



Please be seated

Distribution

During the distribution, the congregation sings the hymn on page 15.

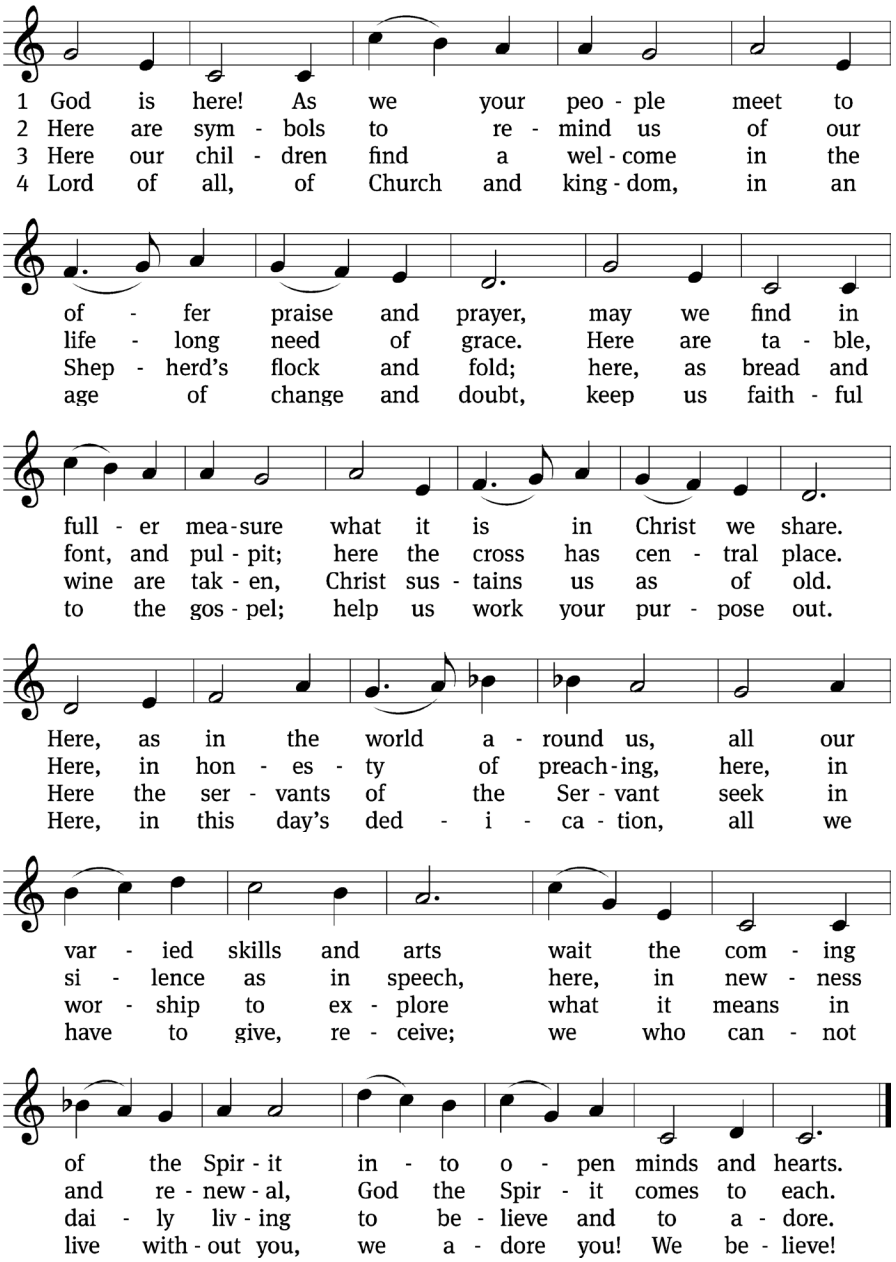
A personal preparation for Holy Communion is on page 19.

In order to foster spiritual unity (1 Corinthians 10:17) and guard against spiritual harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), Living Hope follows the historic Christian practice of Close Communion. Confirmed members of Living Hope and those in fellowship with our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod are invited to celebrate the Lord's Supper with us.

We ask that visitors speak with one of the pastors or ushers before joining us at the altar.

Hymn #858 God Is Here! As We Your People

The congregation sings the hymn during the distribution.



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1992
Text: © 1979 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325
Tune: © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Following the distribution, please stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing
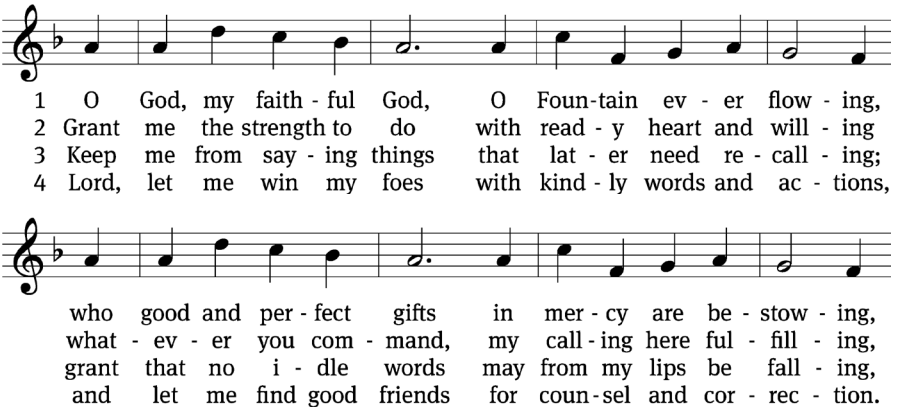
The Lord bless you and keep you.

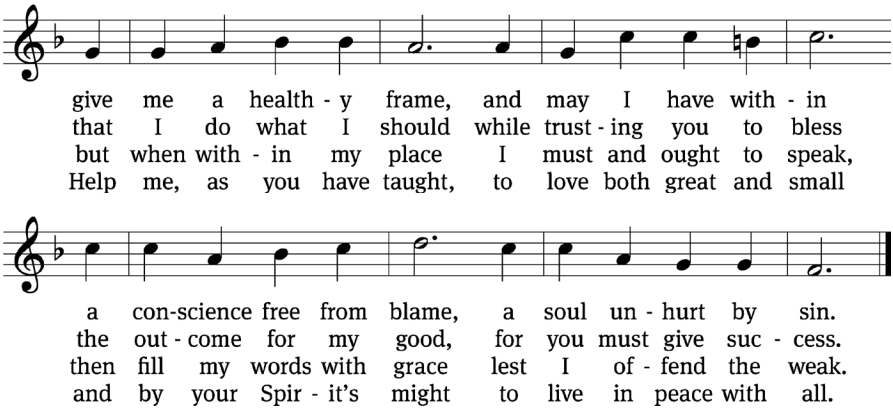
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor ✚ and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #740 O God, My Faithful God





Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Preparation for Holy Communion

What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

I have his own words spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

I will daily thank and praise him for his love for me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Serving in worship today *& next Sunday*

Musicians
Alex Rathje
Dave MacDonald

Ushers
Josh Clark & Greg Six
Howard Lewis & Wyatt Saur

Acolyte
Tishann Charles
William Pahl

Church Cleaning
Shannon Charles
Clarke/Austin Family

After-worship Snacks
Shannon Charles
Marley Family

Livestream
Lacey Family
Saur Family

Offering Caretakers
Beverley Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Assisted-living Leader
Ken Dunaway
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.

Living Hope
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3903 Old Hundred Rd S
Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope.*
- 1 Peter 1:3

Pastor Alex Lindemann
pastorlindemann@livinghopewels.com
cell: 507-429-8008

Pastor Michael Seifert
pastorseifert@livinghopewels.com
cell: 804-239-5206