Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org

Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110.**

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* Cherwien

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider ***filling out a Connection Card online*** *(you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*

Prayer requests *can be posted to the live chat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider ***preparing your space for Communion****: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/ cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

CHORAL INTROIT *Luther's Morning Prayer* arr. Schalk

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

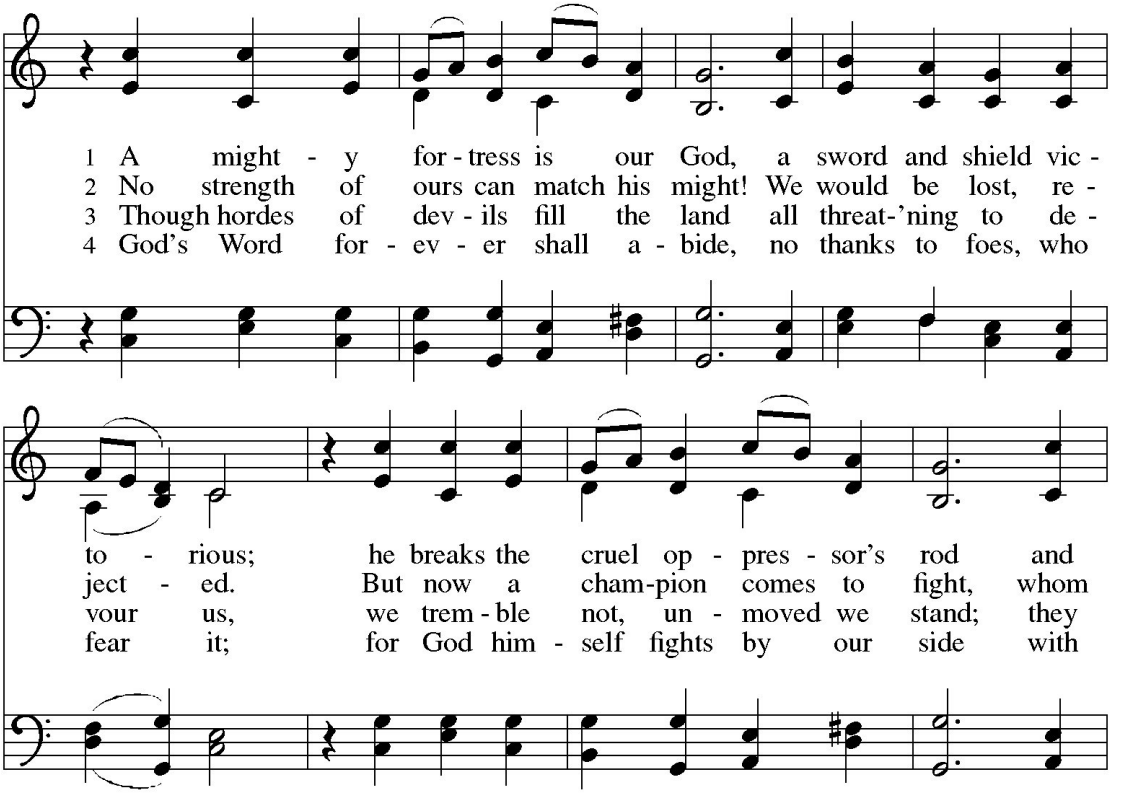
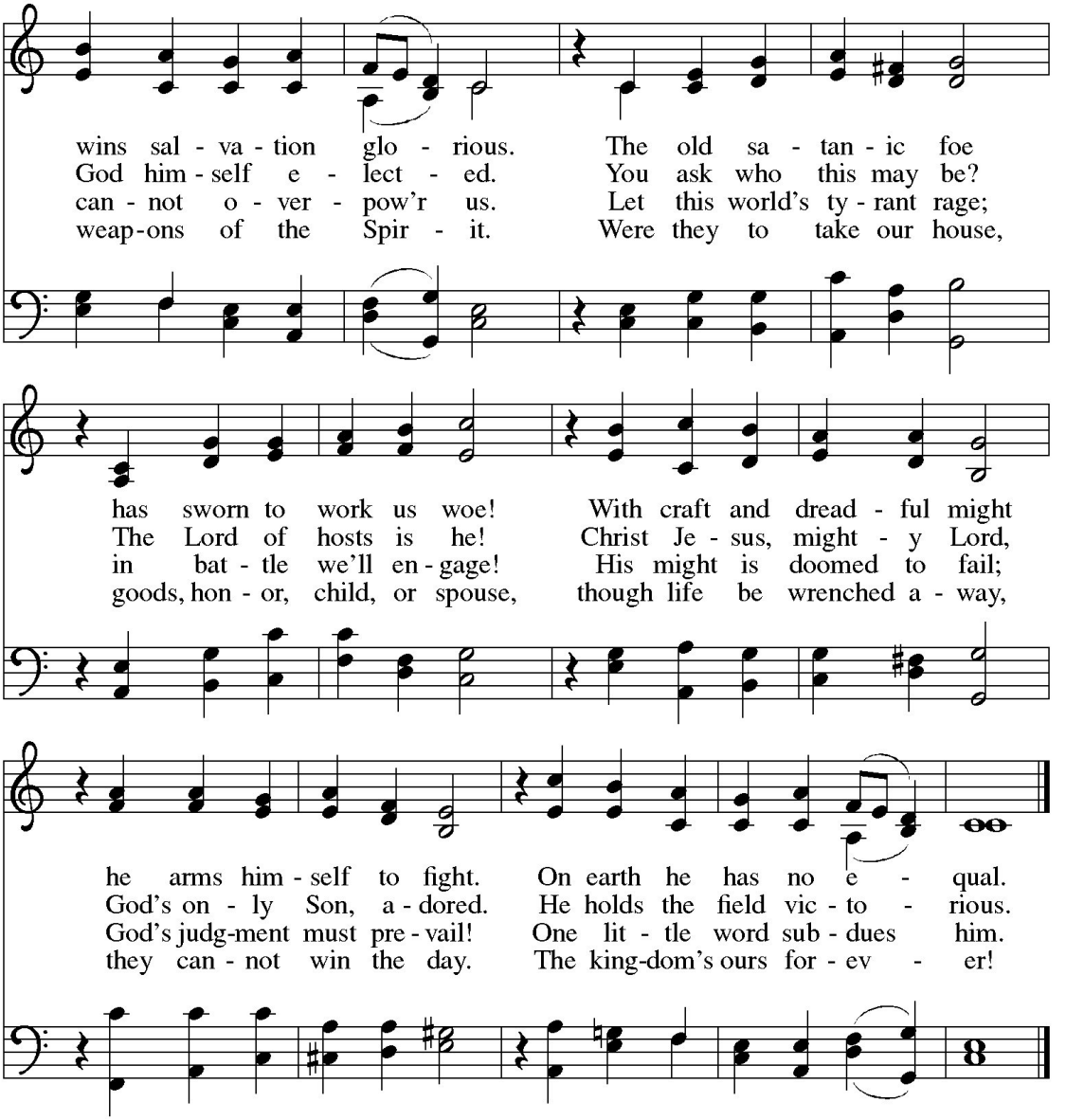
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✢ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #504 ***A Mighty Fortress is Our God***



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

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

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY
A brief silence is kept before the prayer.
Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME
Children are invited forward for a time together.

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30am) *Sing Praise to God the Highest Good* Hildebrand

Sing praise to God the highest good, the author of creation. The God of Love who understood our need for salvation. With healing balm our souls He fills and every faithless murmur stills. To God all praise and glory! We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us. Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored.

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

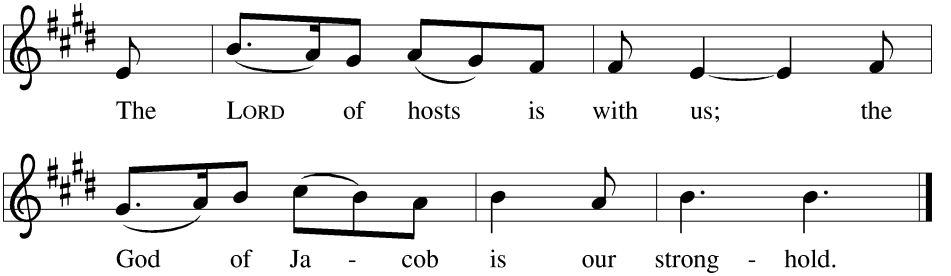
31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with
their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a
covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the
covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will
put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and
they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other,
"Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says
the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

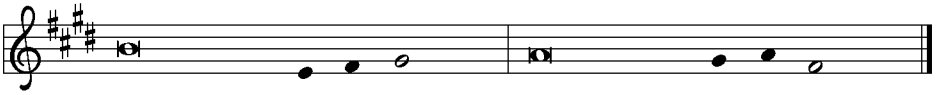
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone

[1]God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
[2]Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
[3]though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
[4]There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
[5]God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
[6]The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
[7]The LORD of | hosts is with us;
he God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
[8]Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
[9]behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
[10]"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
[11]The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

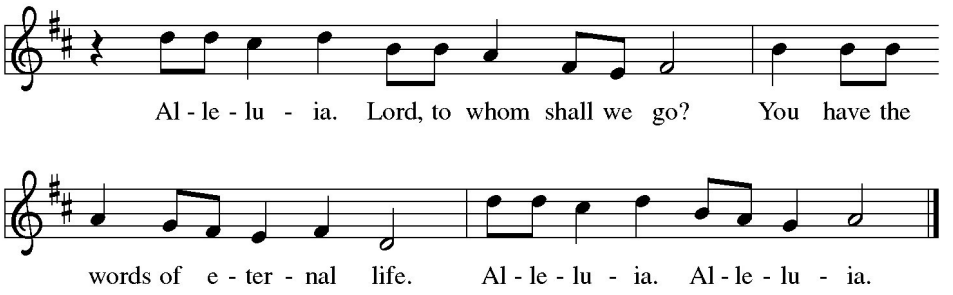
READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so
that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to
God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for
through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
[21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is
attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the
redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement
by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it
was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and
he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.
[27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of
works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by
faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36
Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

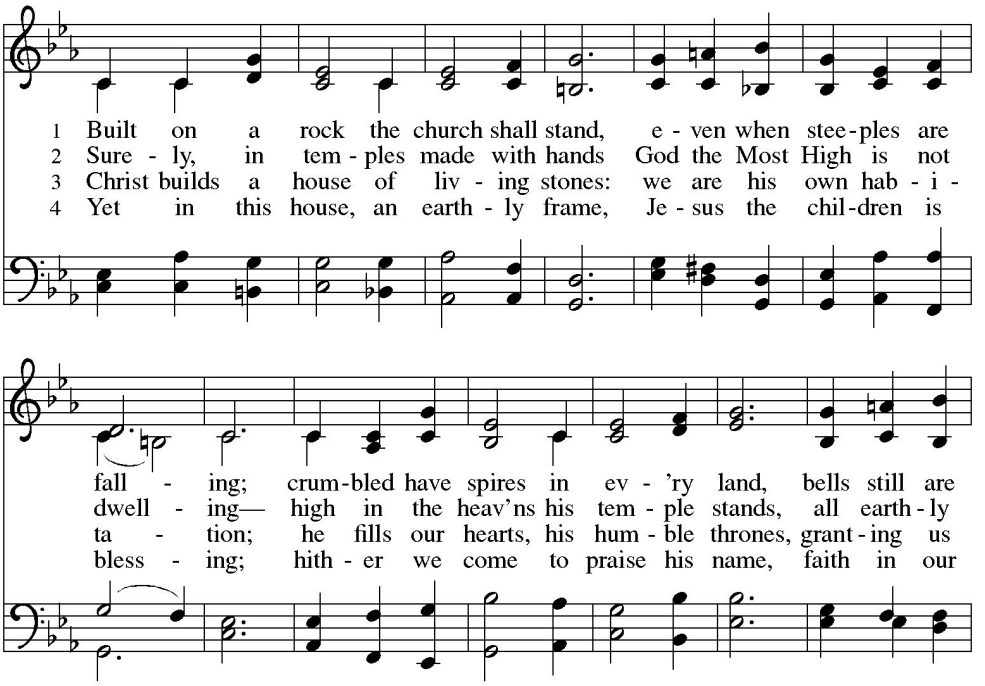
The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

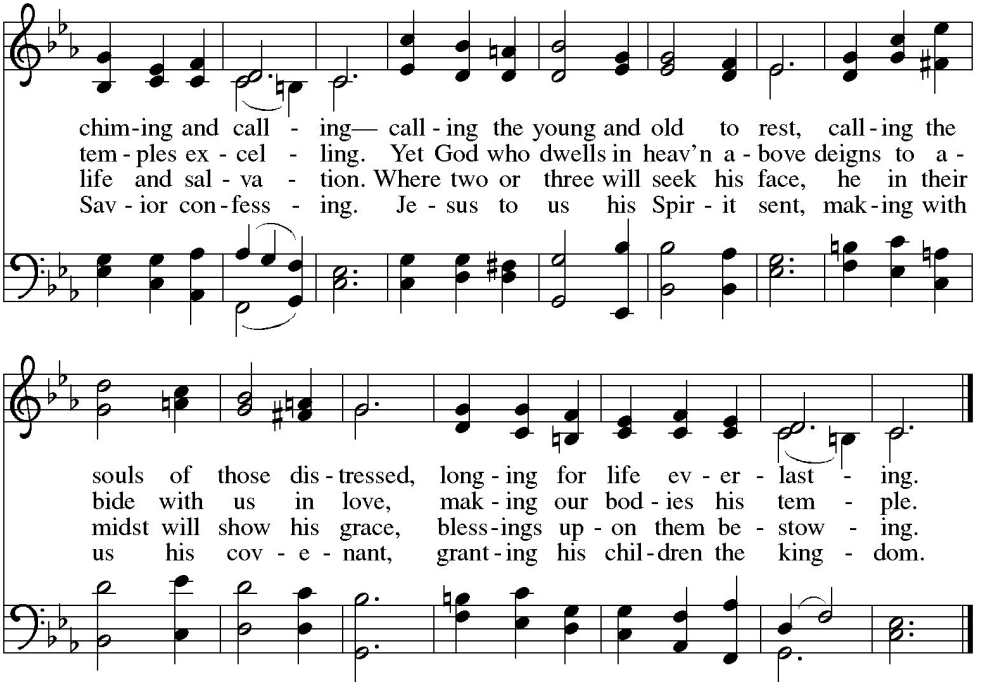
31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are
truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33
They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to
anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave
to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a
place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #652 ***Built on a Rock***
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.





5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

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.

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. Bless the people and lands of the Caribbean with good governance and protection in times of severe weather; equip churches there as signs of your love and faithfulness. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. Be our stronghold at all times.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints, especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, Simon, and Jude. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

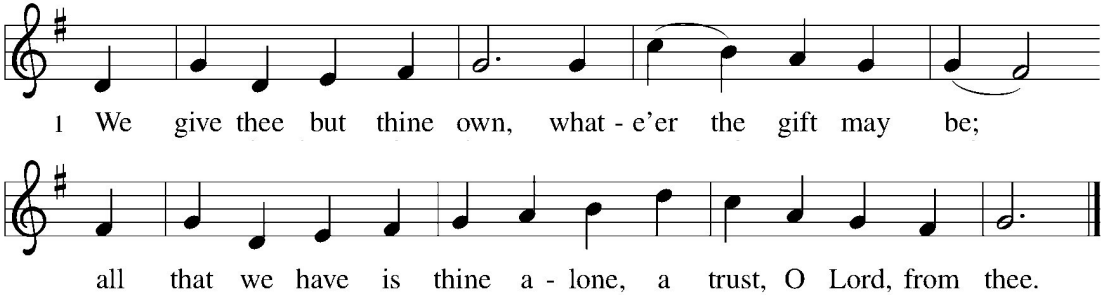
OFFERING
This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with with ***Lutheran World Relief*** *lwr.org and* ***ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response*** *elca.org/hunger and elca.org/disaster*

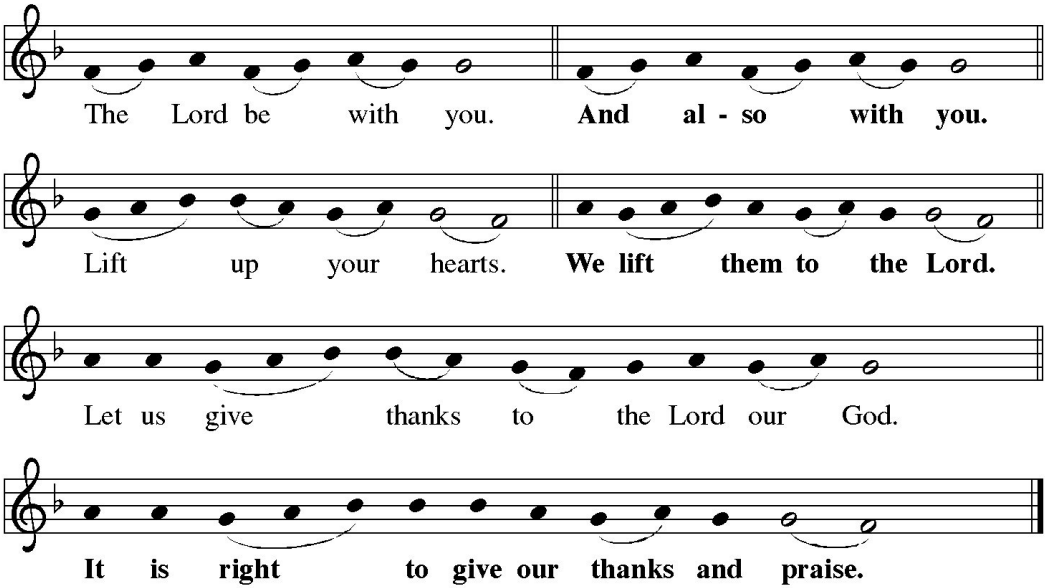
If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at ***clcvalpo.org/give*** *or use our CLC app (download at clcvalpo.org/app).*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 am) *Sing Praise to God the Highest Good* Hildebrand

Sing praise to God the highest good, the author of creation. The God of love who understood our need for His salvation. With healing balm our souls He fills and every faithless murmur stills. To God all praise and glory! We sought the Lord in our distress, O God, in mercy hear us. Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored.

OFFERTORY (10:30 am): *O, That I Had a Thousand Voices* Manz

OFFERING HYMN ELW #686 ***We Give Thee but Thine Own***
The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

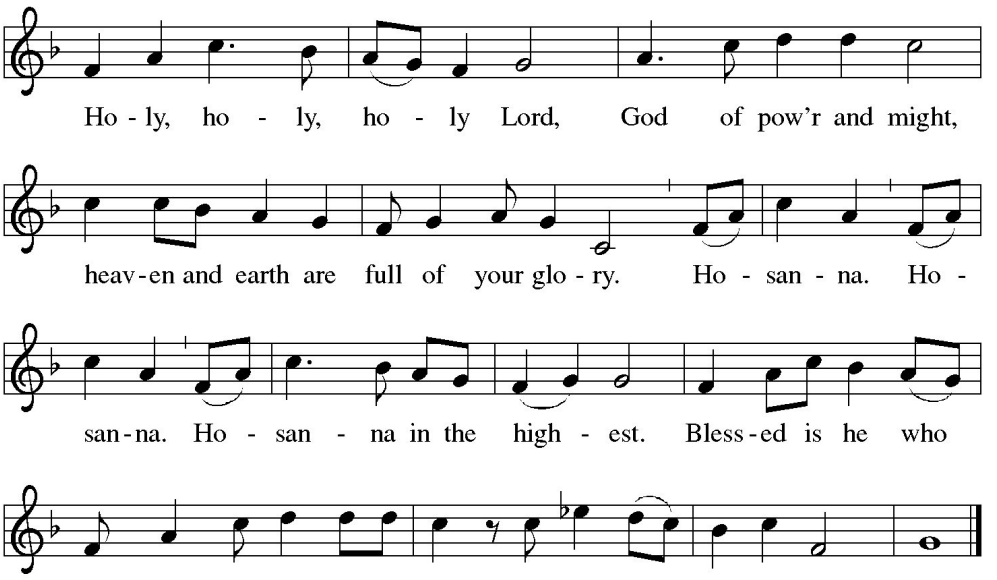


TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER
Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

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
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.
Thanks be to God!

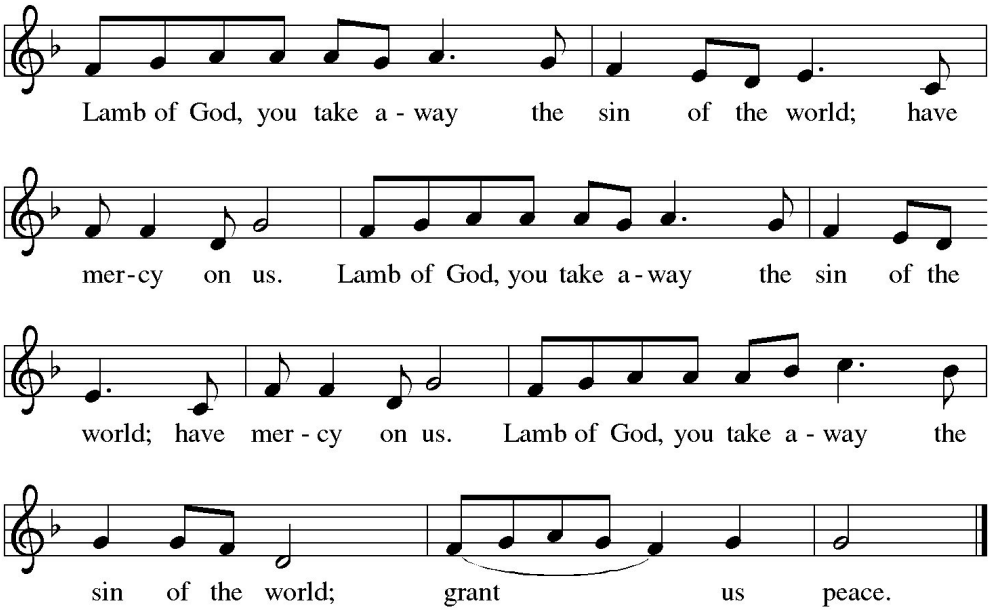
DISTRIBUTION
*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen ***(receive the bread)***

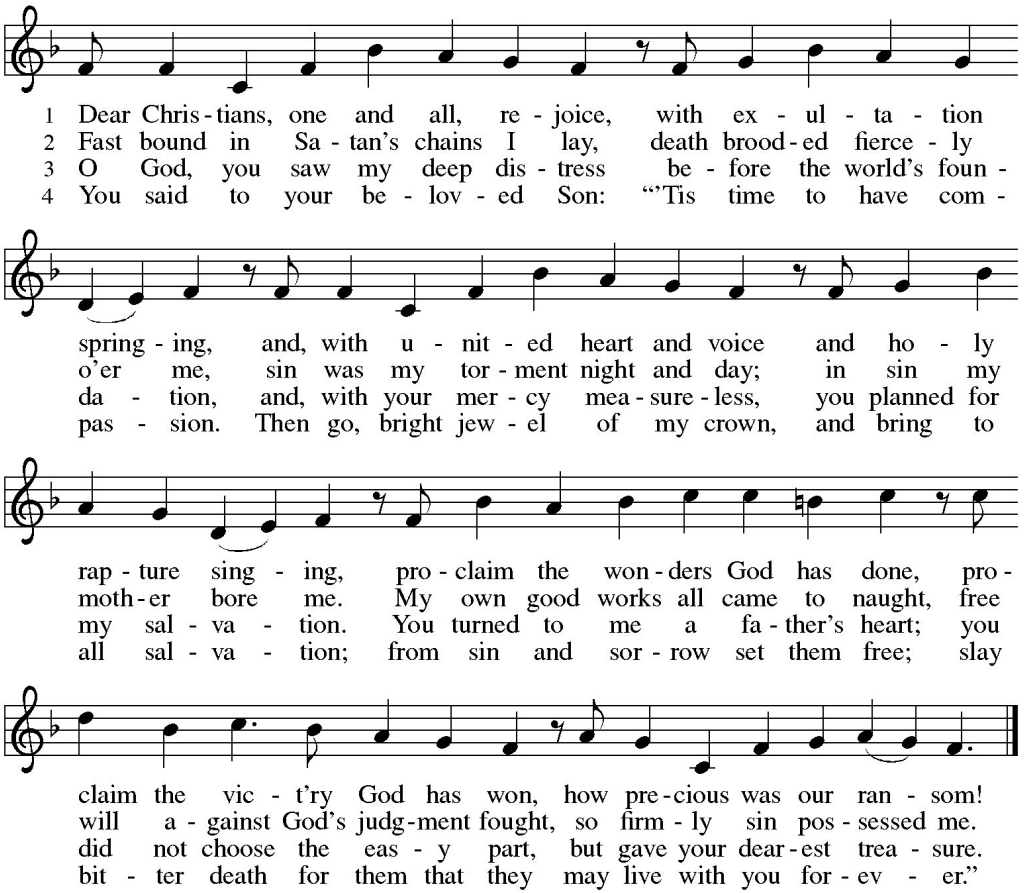
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen ***(receive the cup)***

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE,** please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

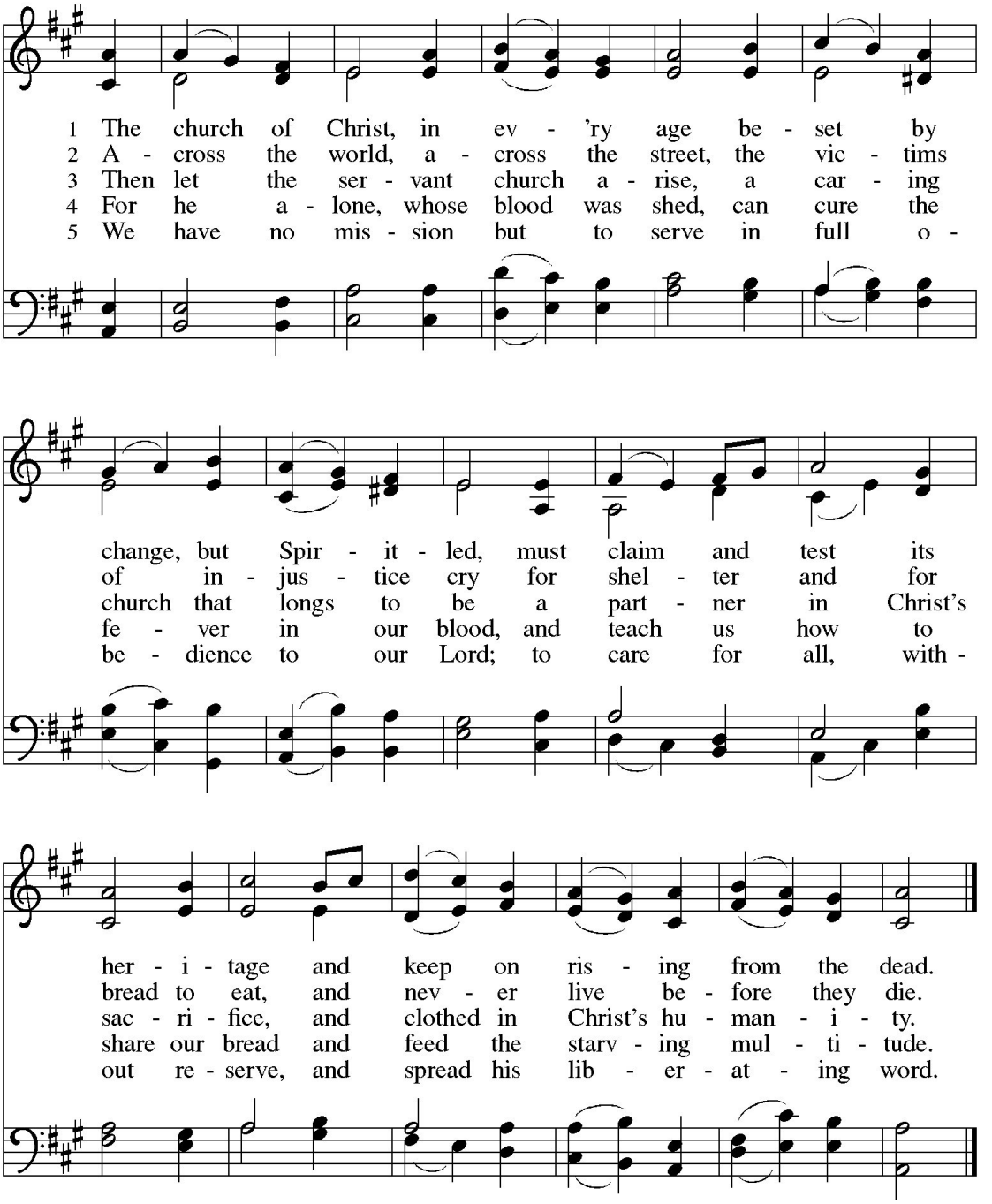
COMMUNION MUSIC

ELW #594 *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

5 The Son obeyed your gracious will,
was born of virgin mother;
and, your good pleasure to fulfill,
he came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised he bore,
a servant's form, like mine, he wore,
to lead the devil captive.

6 To me he said: "Stay close to me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be;
for you I strive and wrestle.
The foe will shed my precious blood;
all this I suffer for your good;
my life o'er death will triumph.

7 "Now to my Father I depart,
from earth to heav'n ascending,
and, gracious wisdom to impart,
the Holy Spirit sending,
who will in trouble comfort you,
will teach you well, your faith renew,
and in all truth will guide you.

8 "What I on earth have done and taught
guide all your life and teaching;
so shall the glorious reign of God
increase, the whole world reaching.
Let none the gospel gift impede;
I make you free; be free indeed!
This final word I leave you."

ELW #729 ***The Church of Christ, in Every Age***

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

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

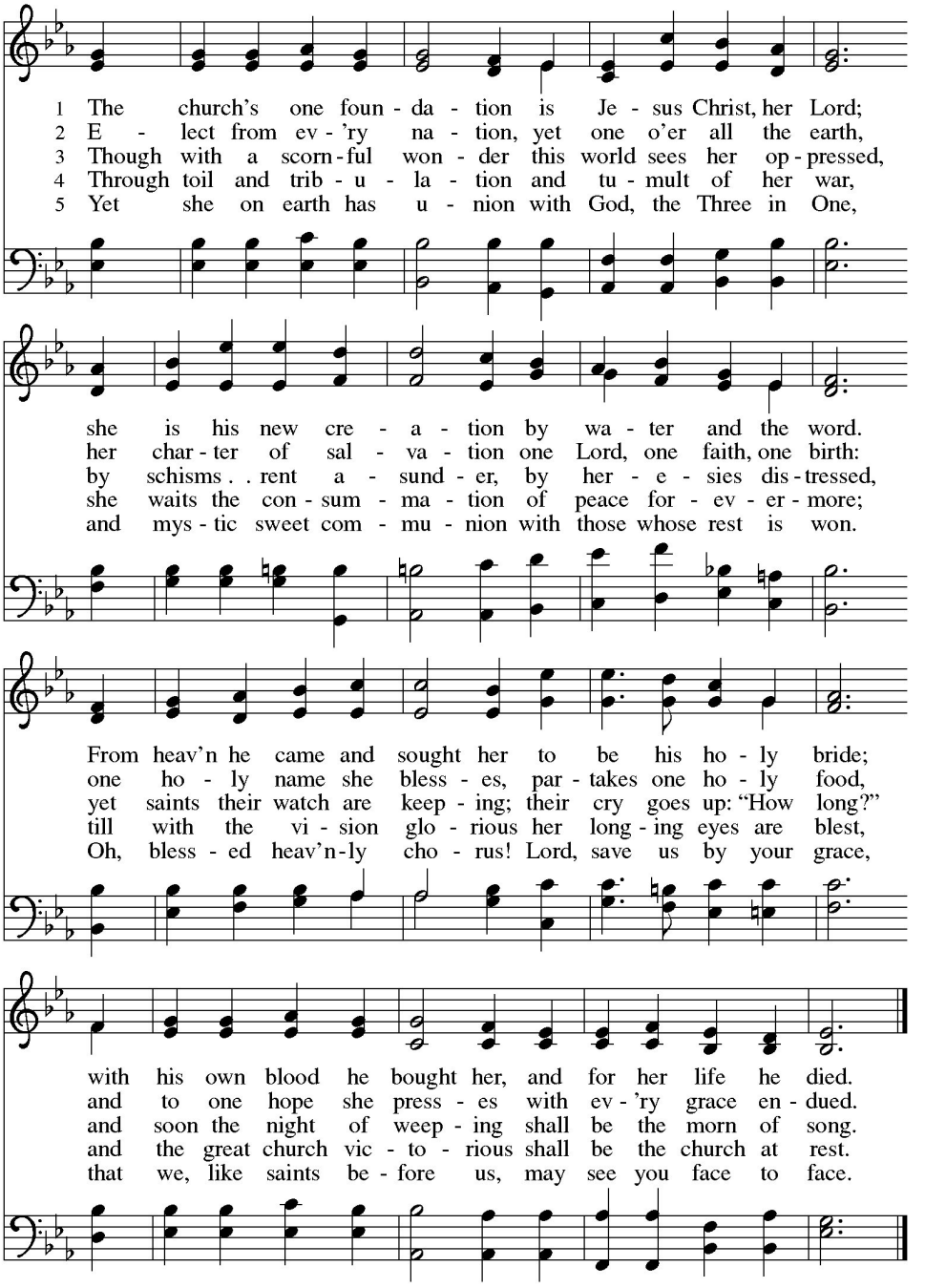
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS
The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING
The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✢ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #654 ***The Church's One Foundation***

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL
Children: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elert

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.

Worship Leaders

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Acolyte	Shawn Longacre	
Lector	Roland Albrecht	Becky Fry
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart	Phil Hahn
Communion Assistants	Phyllis Schroeder Scott Steinwart	Phil Hahn Betty Luckett
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Irene Adams	
Sound/Light		Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	_____	Adam Gibson-Even
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Cantor	Karl Stefans	
Worship Participants	Youth Instrumental Ensemble: Jenna Abbring, alto sax Aaron Fry, viola Joanie Furuness, bass Violet Furuness, viola Lena Gibson-Even, cello Zac Wehner, baritone	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **The Caribbean**

We are thankful for:
- the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive cultural practices of these islands
- how churches have responded to disasters and served all in need
- how liberation from colonialism and oppression has been pursued through music, words and actions
- the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have come from this region.

We pray for:
- those devastated by disasters, that their lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt
- the strengthening of all who faithfully witness through word and deed to the gospel
- all those affected by crime and addictions
- good governance and smooth transitions between political leaders.

COMMEMORATIONS
Week of October 26

October 26-Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters
These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

October 28-Simon and Jude, Apostles
We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

October 31-Reformation Day
By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

Home, Sweet Home

Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it. He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.

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