TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026 at 8:45 & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD
www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Fountain Reverie
Percy E Fletcher (1879–1932)

WELCOME

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 dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

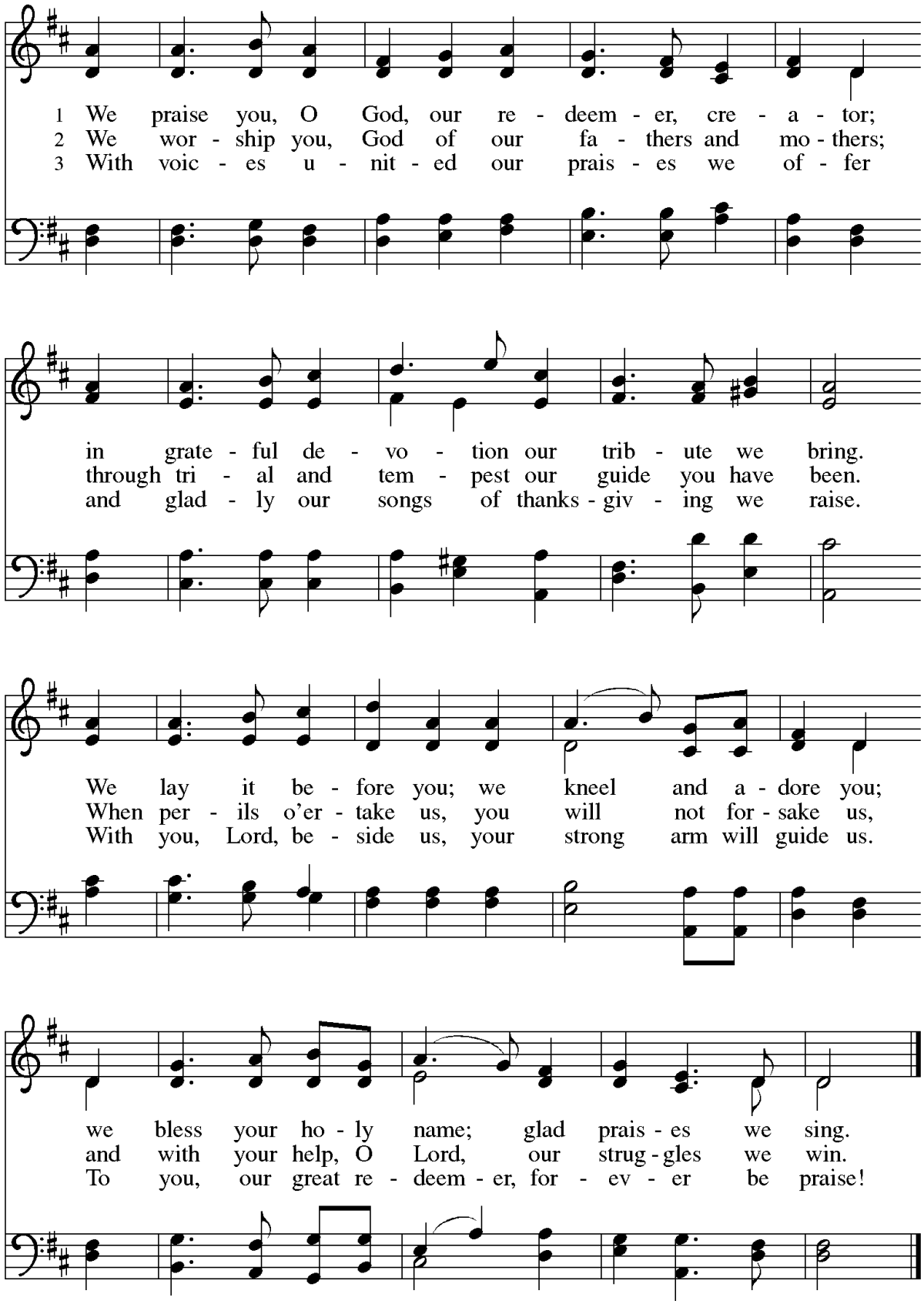
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
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.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✠ Jesus, the good shepherd,
feeds us with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 870–We Praise You, O God



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.

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.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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.

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. 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." 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. 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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

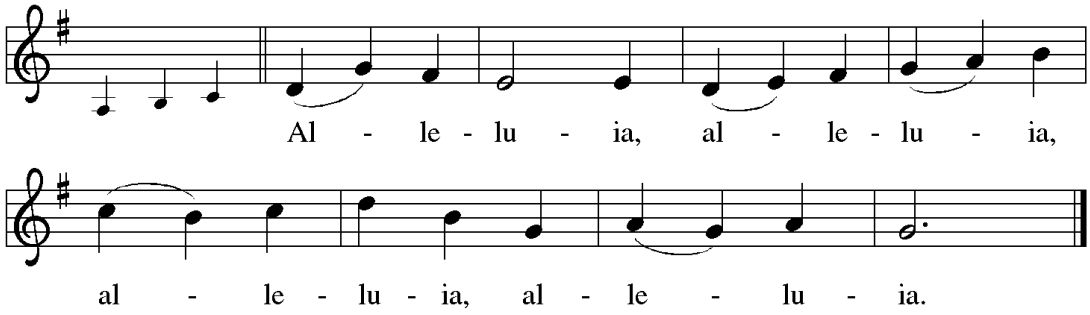
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting One



GOSPEL READING Matthew 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.

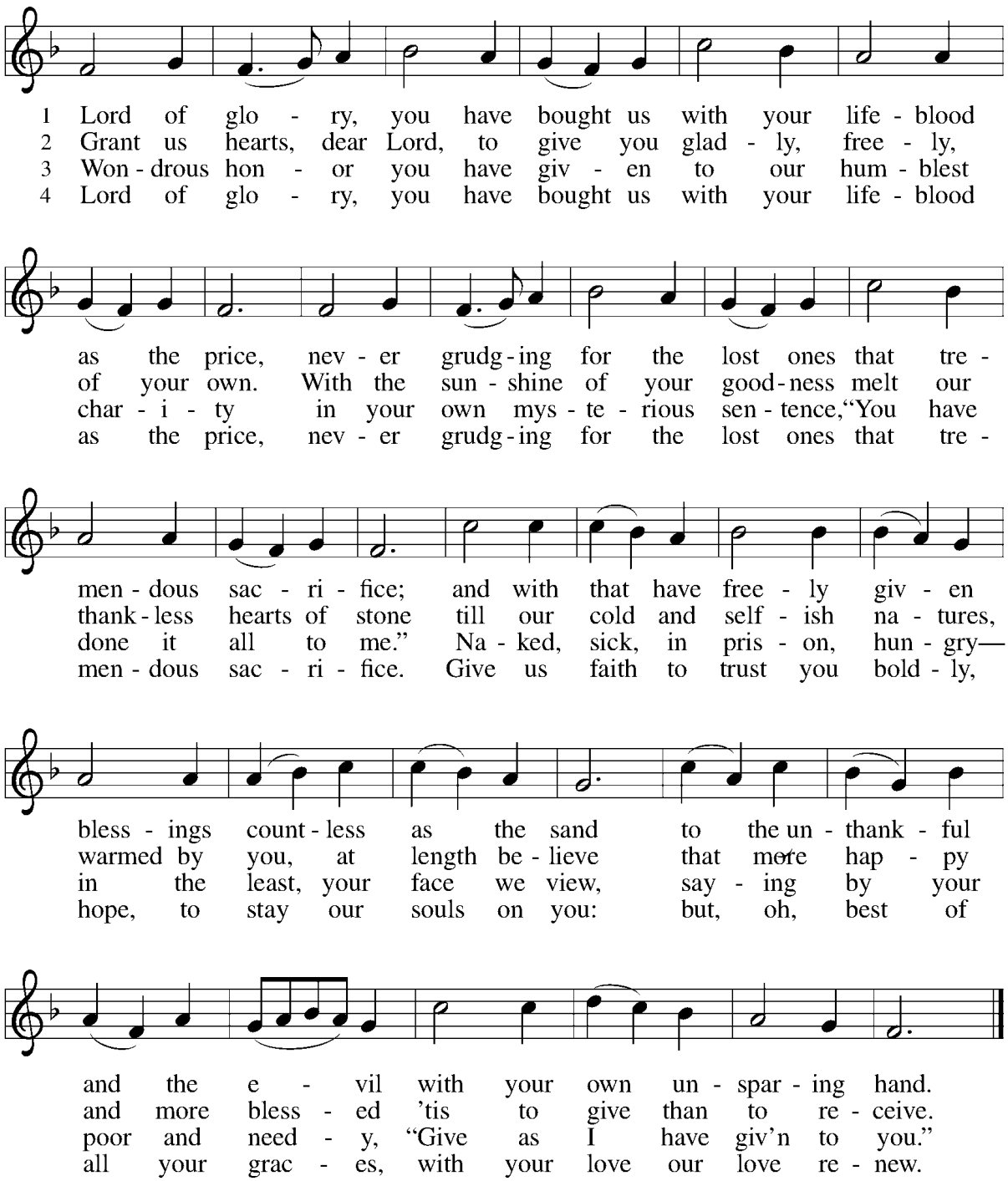
The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. 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 Pastor Zawistoski

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 707–Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Into your steadfast love, faithful God,
we entrust all for whom we pray,
in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

All may share a sign of Peace.
Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

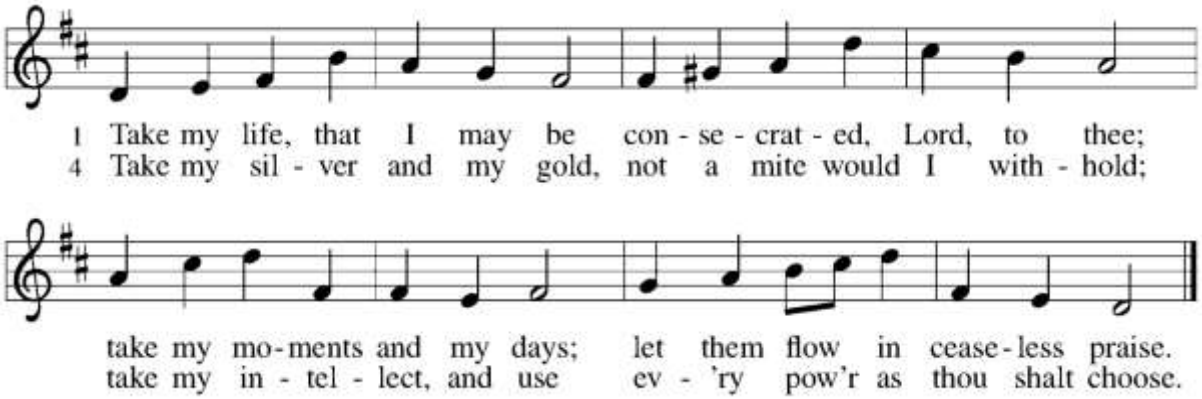
Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFERTORY MUSIC (8:45) O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 685-Take My Life and Let It Be



OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

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. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should give thanks and praise, for in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosostros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

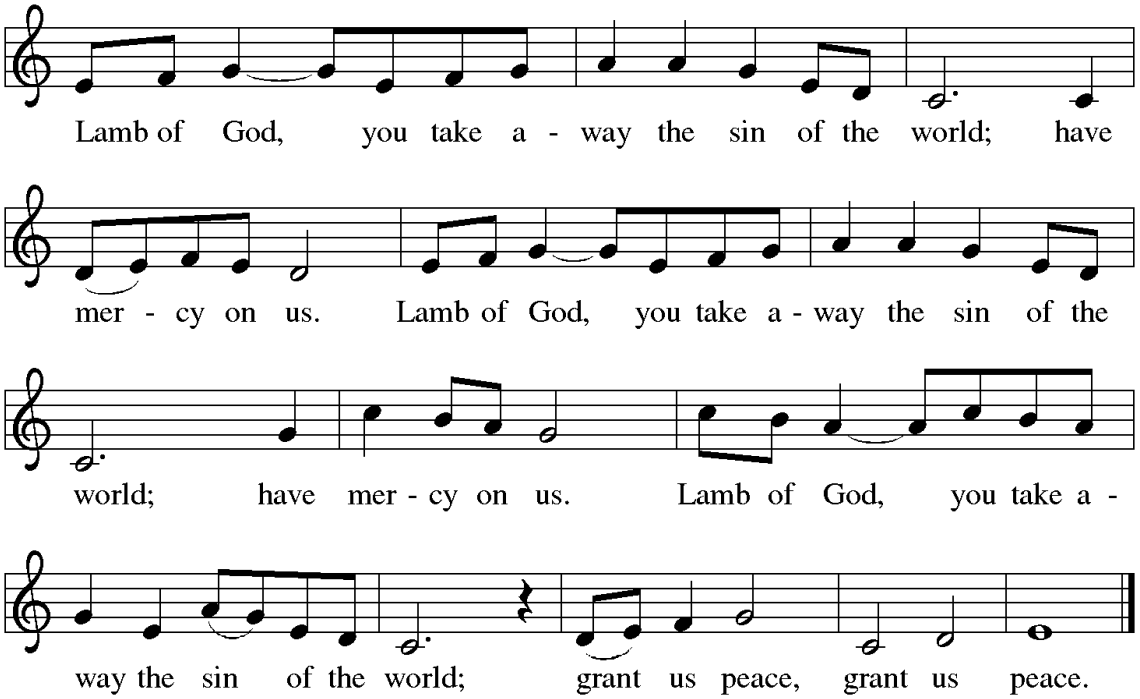
All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

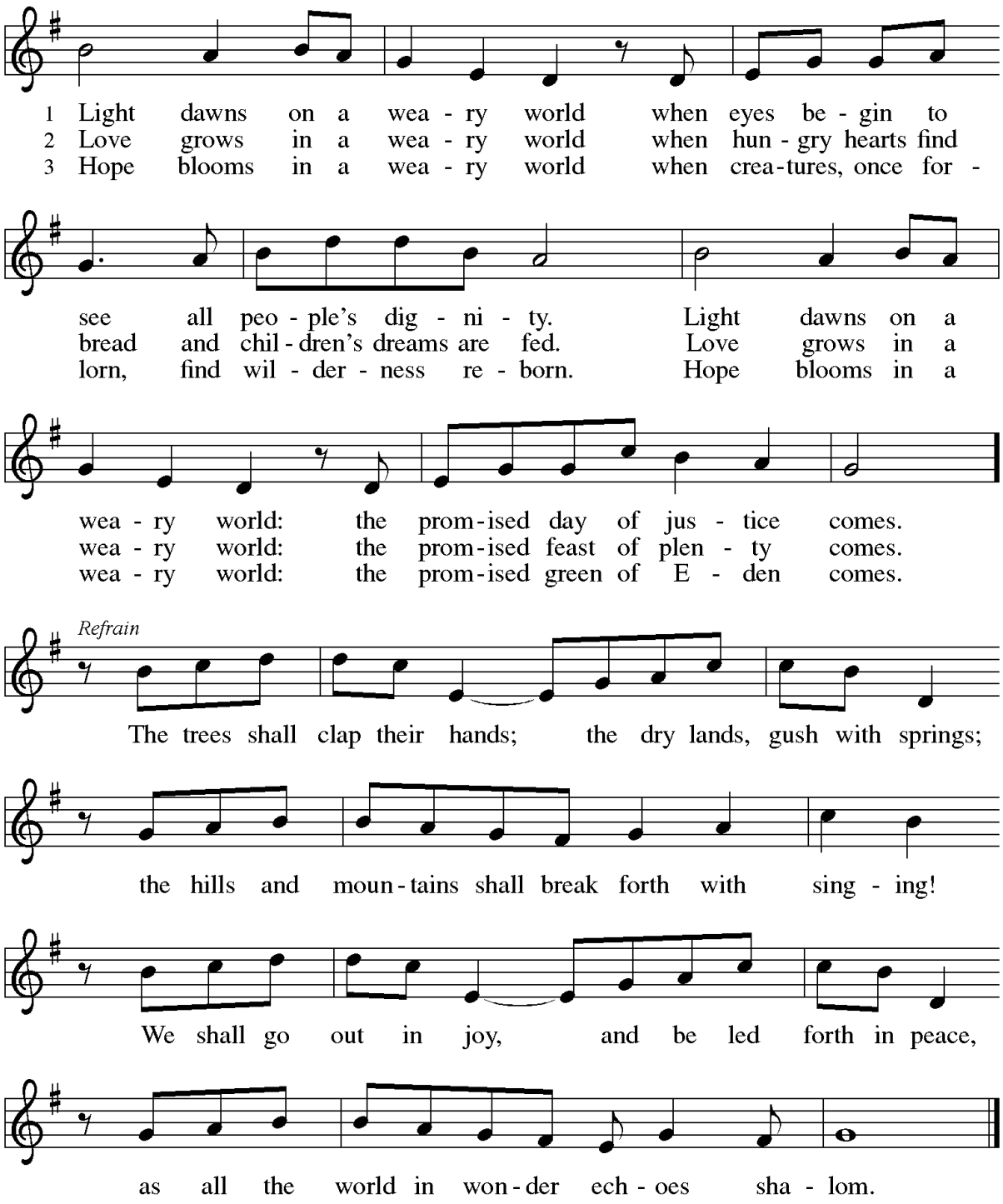
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI ELW Setting One



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 726–Light Dawns on a Weary World

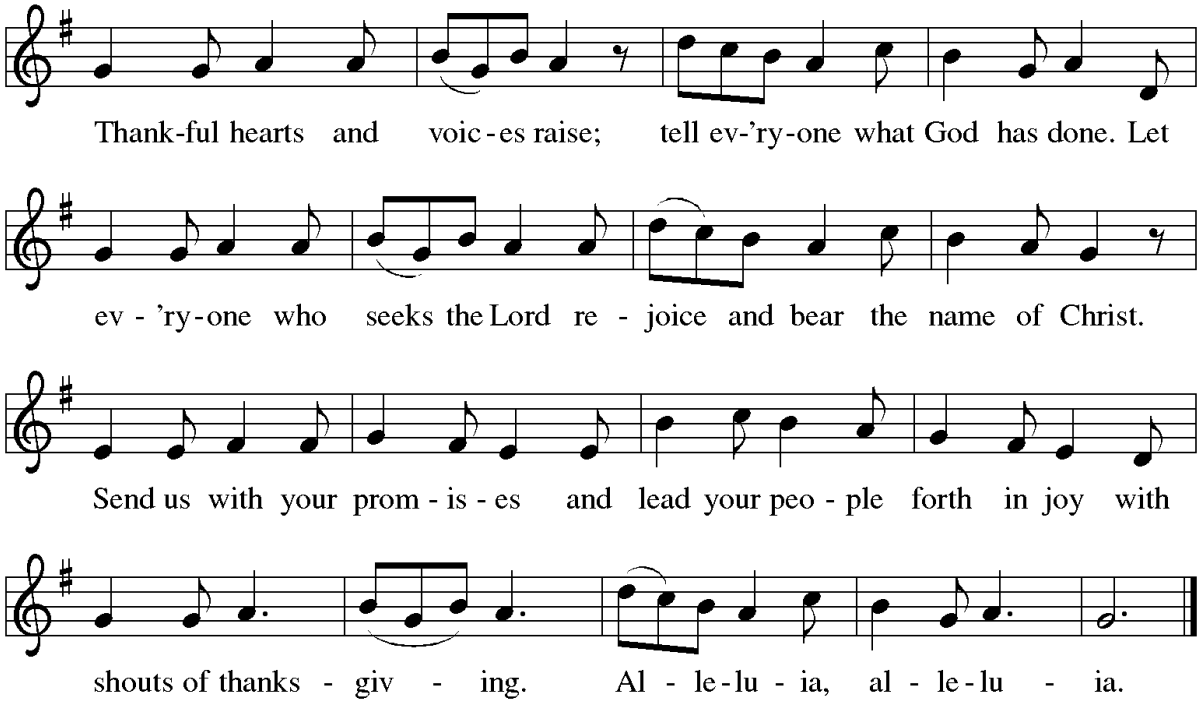


POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW 207–Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

THE SENDING

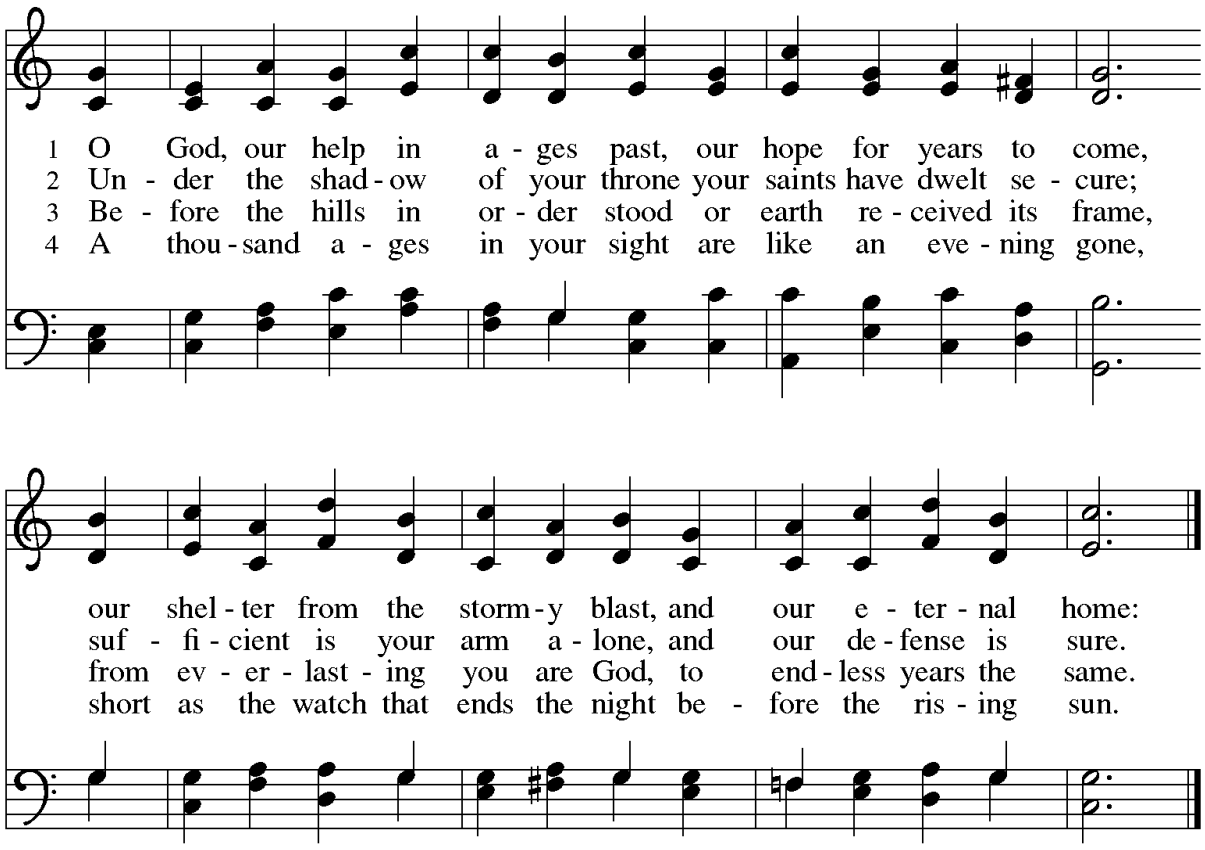
BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 632–O God, Our Help in Ages Past



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we 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!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Festival Toccata
Percy E Fletcher (1879–1932)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dean McDonald 8:45
Support Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER
The Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER
Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Outreach and High School Ministries

COMMUNION SERVER
Becky Unkenholz 11:15

READERS
Ronan and Tessa Shugert 8:45
Ruth Manchester 11:15

CRUCIFERS
Edward Perry 8:45
Becky Unkenholz 11:15

MUSICIANS
Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

LET'S TALK
TODAY 10:10 AM

SPECIAL SCREENING:
JESUS WAS A MIGRANT

Meet in the Sanctuary

The brief documentary (30 minutes) follows Dr. Jemar Tisby on a pilgrimage in 2025 to El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, examining the human stories of asylum seekers—many of whom are Christians—following the shutdown of the CBP.

The film investigates a central contradiction - how people who worship a migrant Savior (pointing to Jesus' early life as a refugee family fleeing to Egypt) can support restrictive, harsh, or exclusionary immigration policies.

Again the film is from 2025 and released in April of 2026. Who do we think of when we use the term, migrant?

LA SAGRADA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS
DEADLINE SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

This year, like last, we will be **giving the families gift cards to purchase the children's Christmas Gifts.** If you can help, please go to www.saintlukegive.us and click *Children's Gifts.* Pastor Miller and Suleyma Alfaro will coordinate the gift card distribution with the families in time for them to make purchases for Christmas. Again, deadline for giving is Sunday, December 6. We will offer special dedication prayers that day for the funds received. Thank you so much.

TODAY'S MUSIC

ELW 870
We Praise You, O God
Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963
Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck,* 1626
Tune: KREMSER

ELW 707
Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887
Tune: HYFRYDOL

ELW 685
Take My Life and Let It Be
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.
Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870
Tune: PATMOS

ELW 726
Light Dawns on a Weary World
Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951
Tune: TEMPLE OF PEACE

ELW 207
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

ELW 632
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: William Croft, 1678-1727
Tune: ST. ANNE

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.
Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2025-2026, copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.
OneLicense.net streaming license A-701360

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

Sunday, November 15
PENTECOST
7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship (English)
10:00 AM The Gathering
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
10:00 AM SLSHY+
10:00 AM Up for Discussion
10:10 AM LET'S TALK
11:15 AM Worship (English)
1:00 PM Worship(Spanish)
2:00 PM The Gathering

Monday, November 16
8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- Art Program
7:00 PM CDS Board (Online)

Tuesday, November 17
8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM CDS Music
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 18
7:00 AM Faith Connections (Online)
8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- After School Tutoring
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum

Thursday, November 19
8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- En Camino Tutoring
7:30 PM AA
7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Online)

Friday, November 20
8:30 AM CDS Classes
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- Music
6:00 PM AA
7:30 PM Potomac Chapter AGO Concert

Saturday, November 21
9:30 AM Quilters
9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon
6:00 PM SLSHY+ Activate Immersive Games
8:30 PM AA

Sunday, November 22
CHRIST THE KING
7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship
10:00 AM The Gathering
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
10:00 AM SLSHY+
10:00 AM Up for Discussion
10:00AM LET'S TALK
11:15 AM Worship
12:15 PM Thanksgiving Bag Service Project