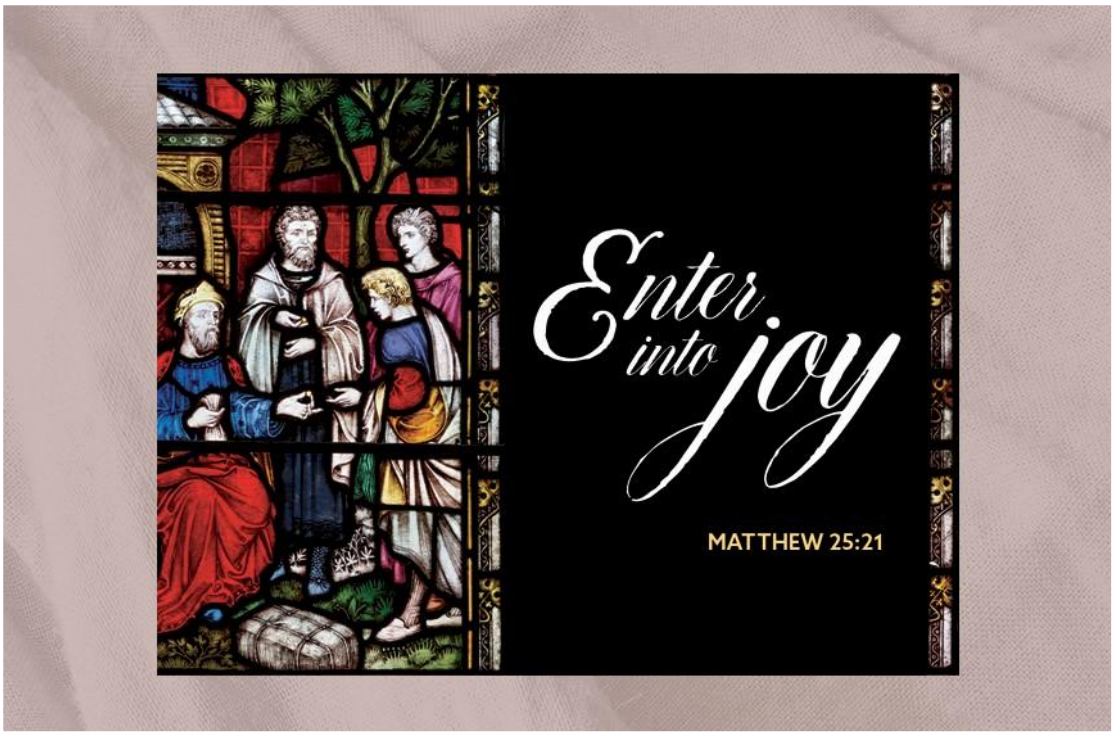
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



November 15, 2026

WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

Faith Lutheran Church
550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228
Blakeslee, PA 18610
Office 570-646-0309

Email: faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org **Website:** faithlutheranblakeslee.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312

Leader: ..... George Miller
Lector ..... Ben Mroz, III
Greeters/Ushers: ..... Janice Neagle
Music: ..... Molly Finkbiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletins: donated by Cheryl Ray. *"With God all things are possible."* -Matthew 19:26

Altar Service Signup: Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris_fan@yahoo.com to help.

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: Sign-up sheets for 2027 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for $10 and $10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

Faith Fellowship Team: Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

AA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Nov. 18, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Bible Study: Sessions on Sundays, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Joshua. Please call Tom Hutton if you are interested in attending. 570-972-6331.

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

Choir Rehearsals: Sundays from 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. New members welcomed.

Faith Book Club: Our next book selection is, "Her Hidden Genius," by Marie Benedict. If you would like to join us, please see Sara Cornell. All are welcome.

Faith Library: Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free Community Lunch: First Tuesday of each month. (Dec. 1.) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House,133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour: Fellowship will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers to host are needed—please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

Pastor Jami Possinger has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951

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.

PRELUDES: "Christ the Cornerstone," "St. Anne"

Please rise as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

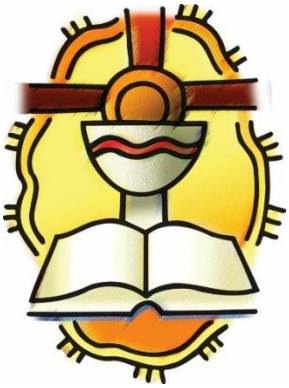
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

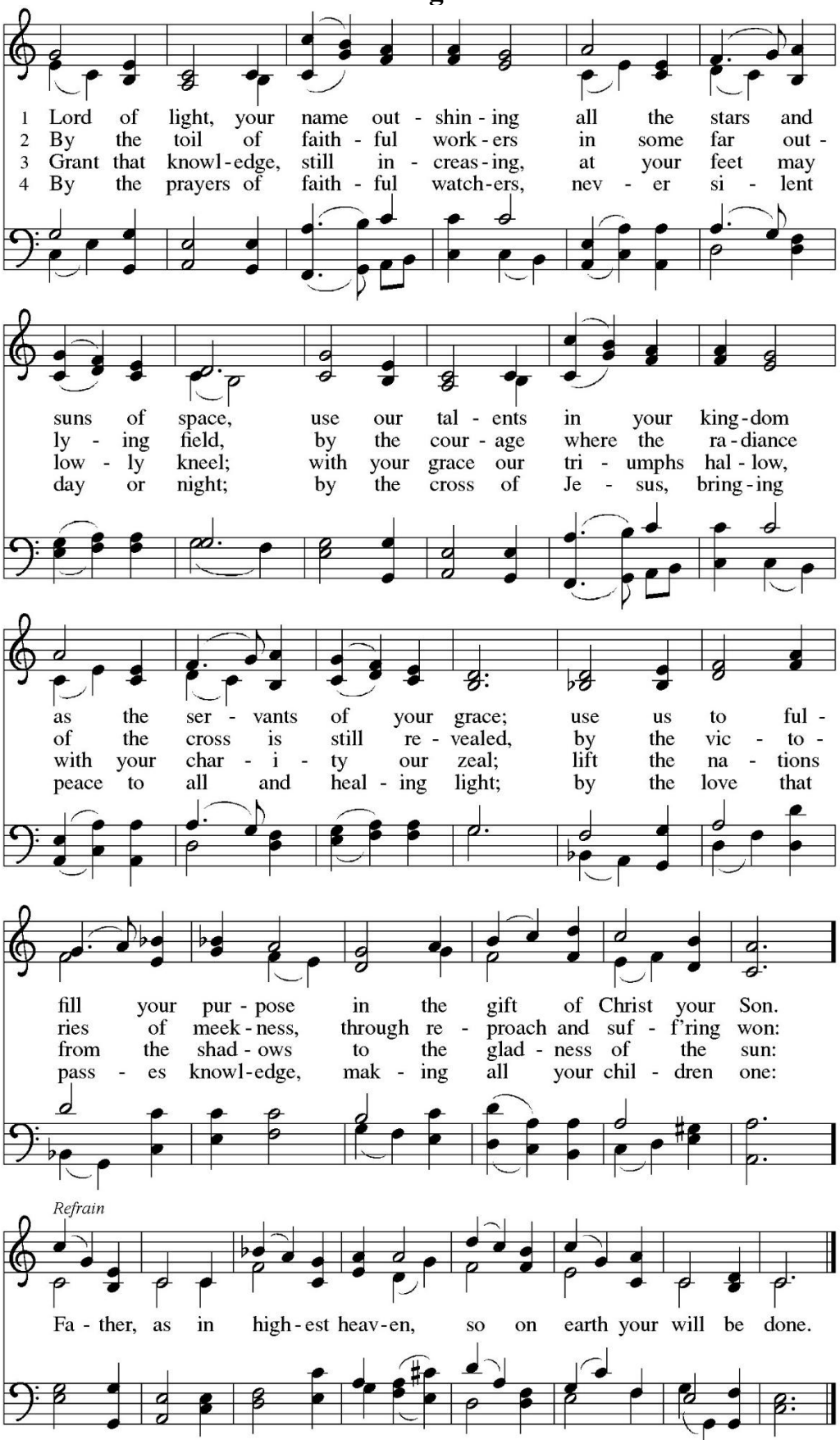
Holy God,

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 you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**



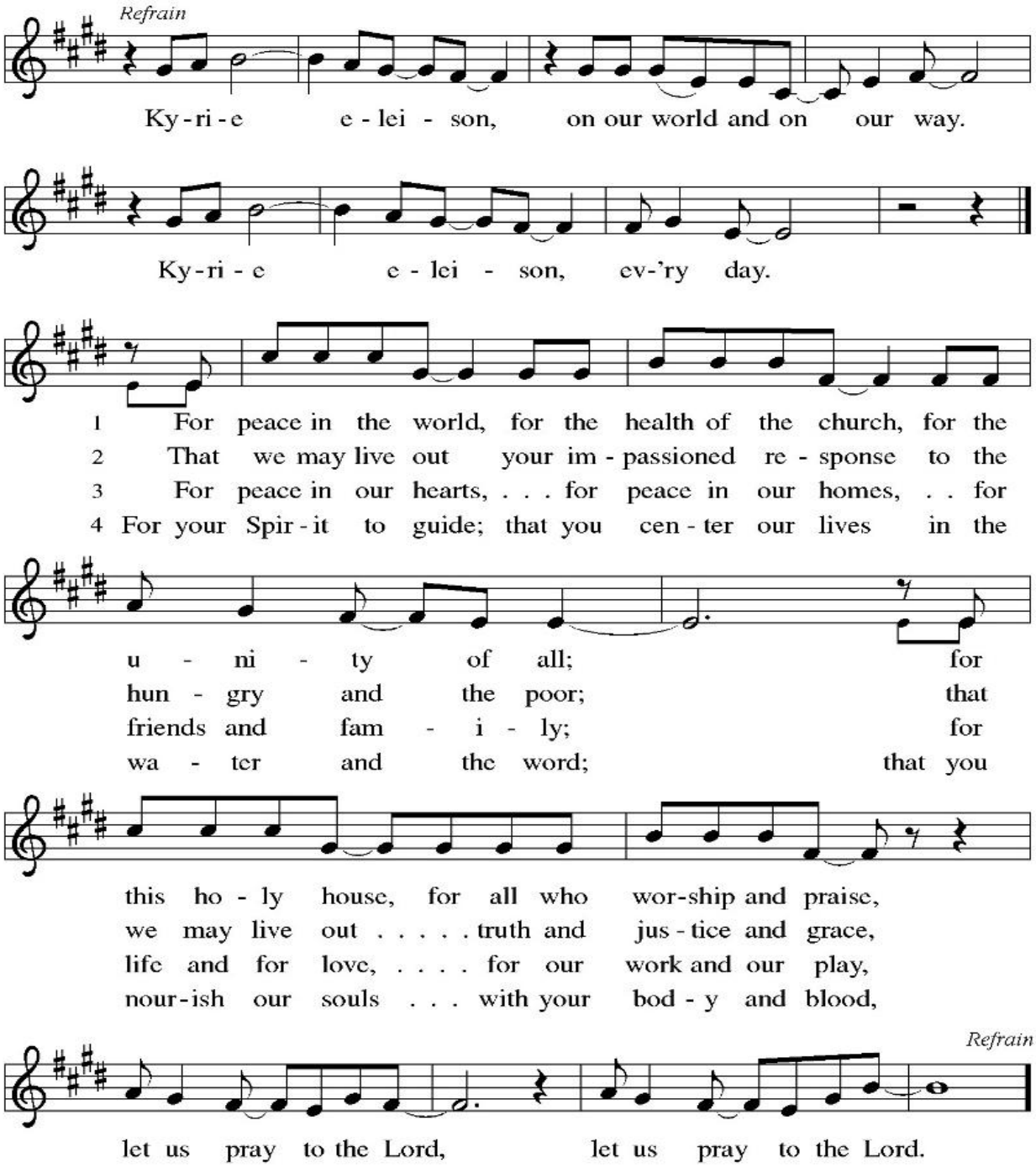
GATHERING HYMN **Lord of Light** **LBW 405**



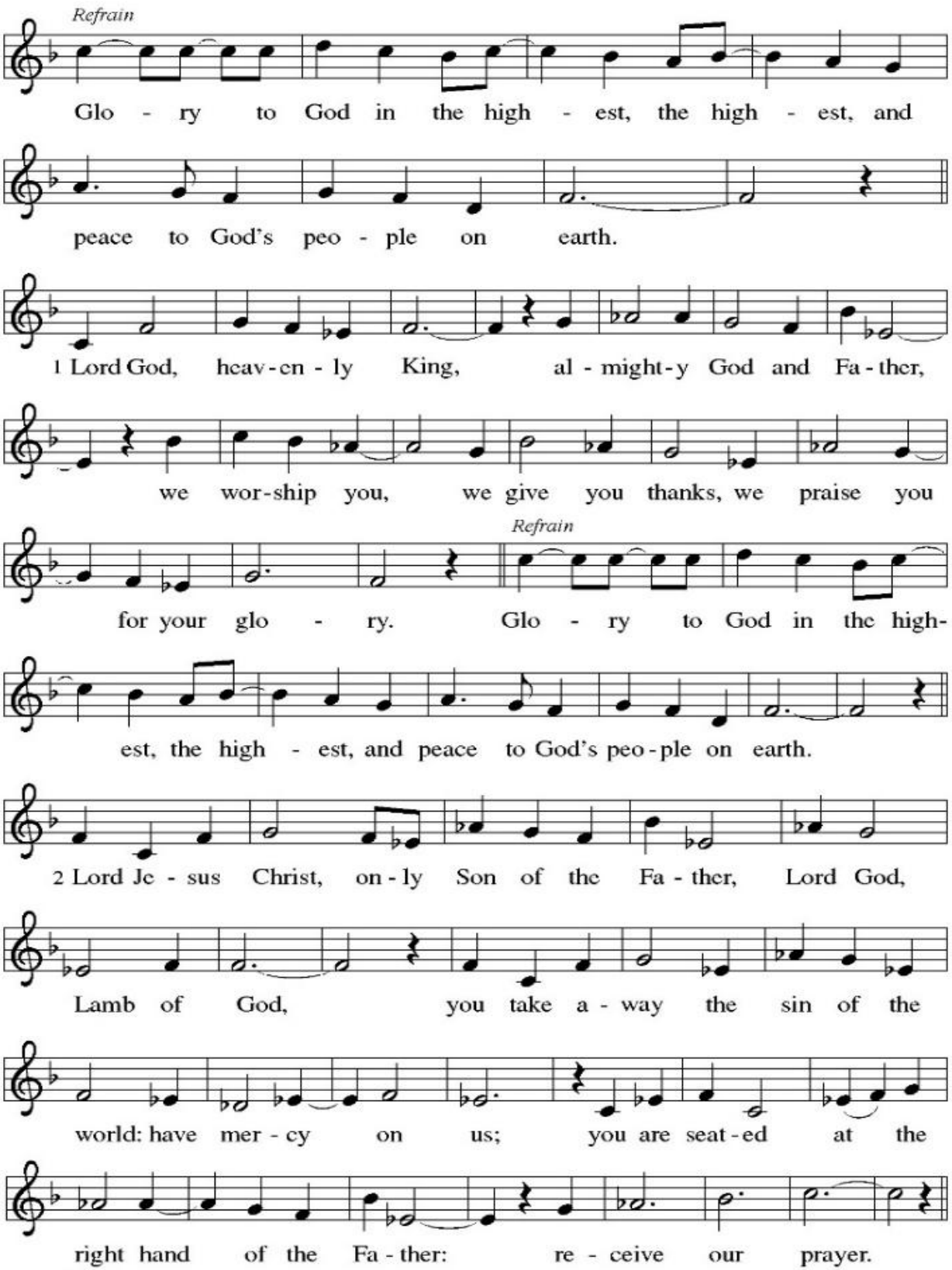
GREETING

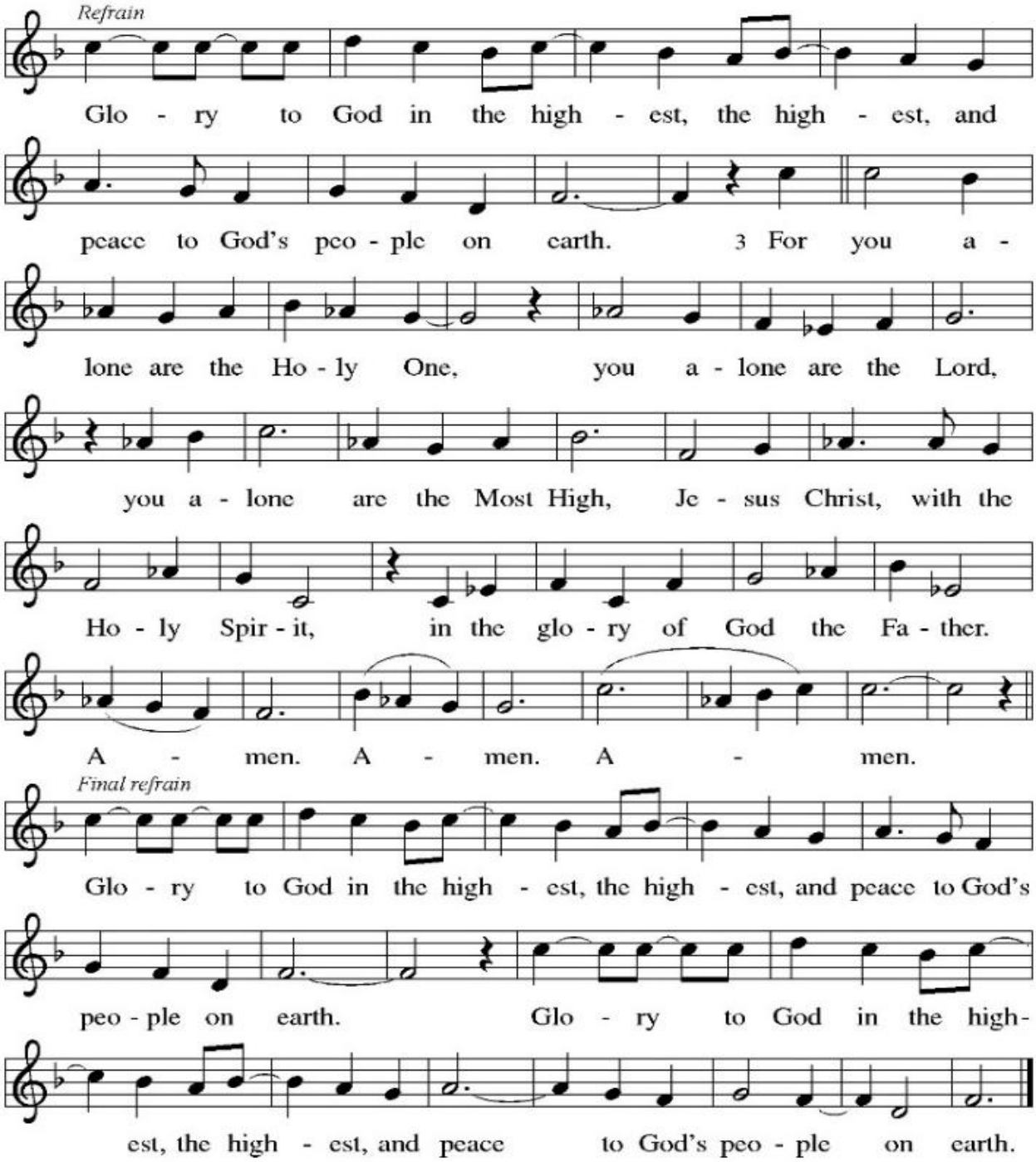
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has prepared a
sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and
I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The
LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their
houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

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

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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

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.**

9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your | indignation?

12 **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

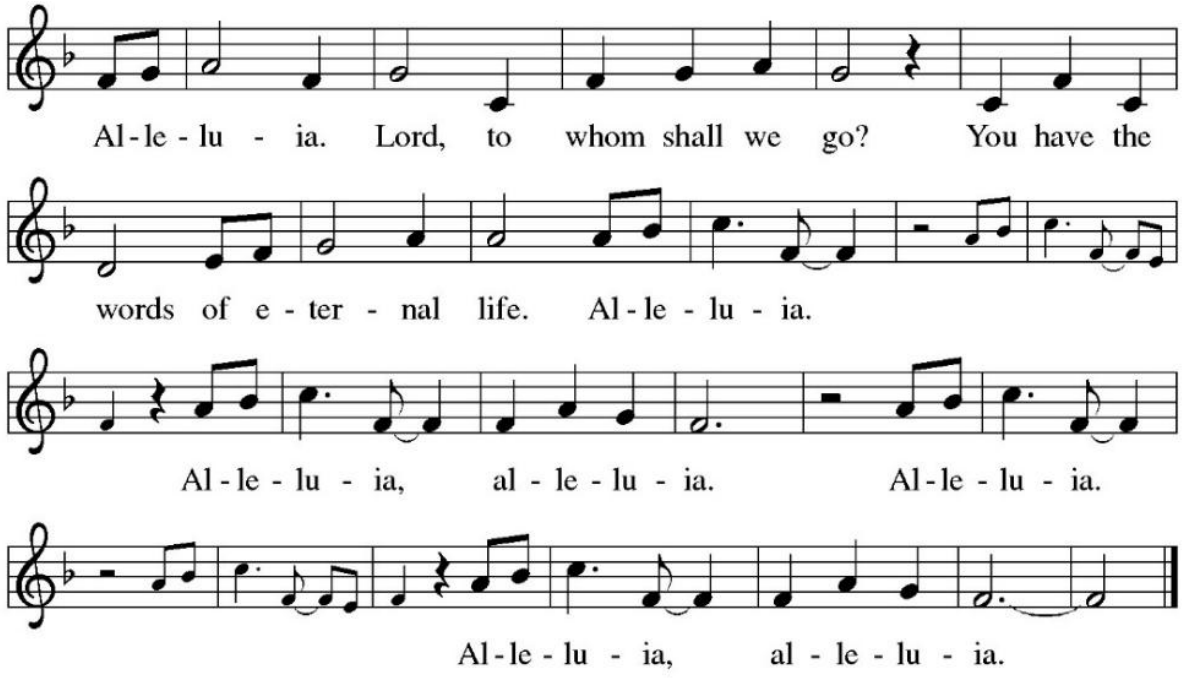
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 25:14-30**

Glory to you, O Lord.



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

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

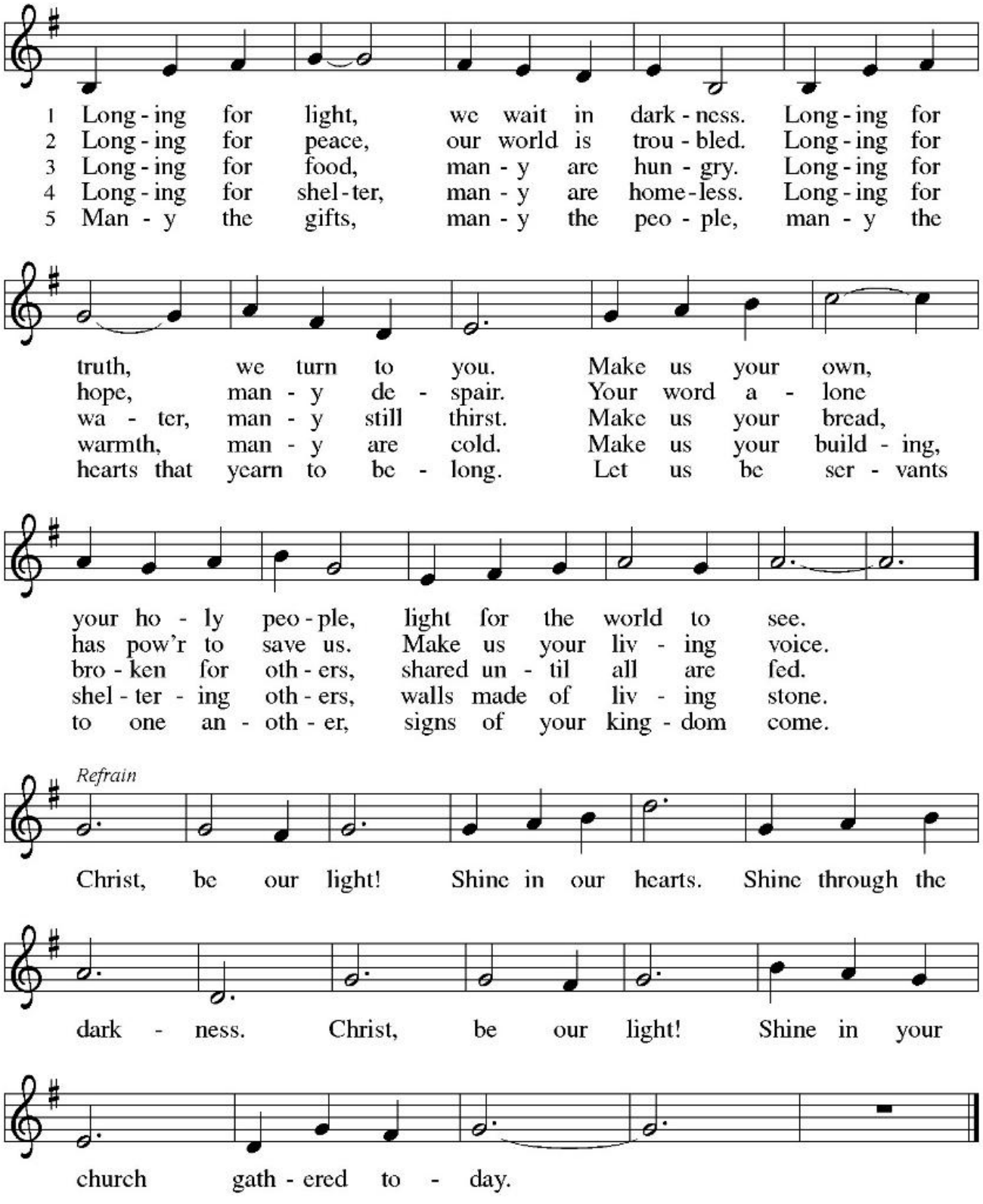
Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY **"Christ Be Our Light"** **ELW 715**



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYER LIST

Jim H.; Megan; Larissa; Denis H.; William; Richard Z.; David S.; Gail and Bob C.; Shirley S.; Justin E.; Ed. T.; Dale H.; Tom M..; Sabrina Mendez & Family; Stephanie D.; St. Luke, Greeley.

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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



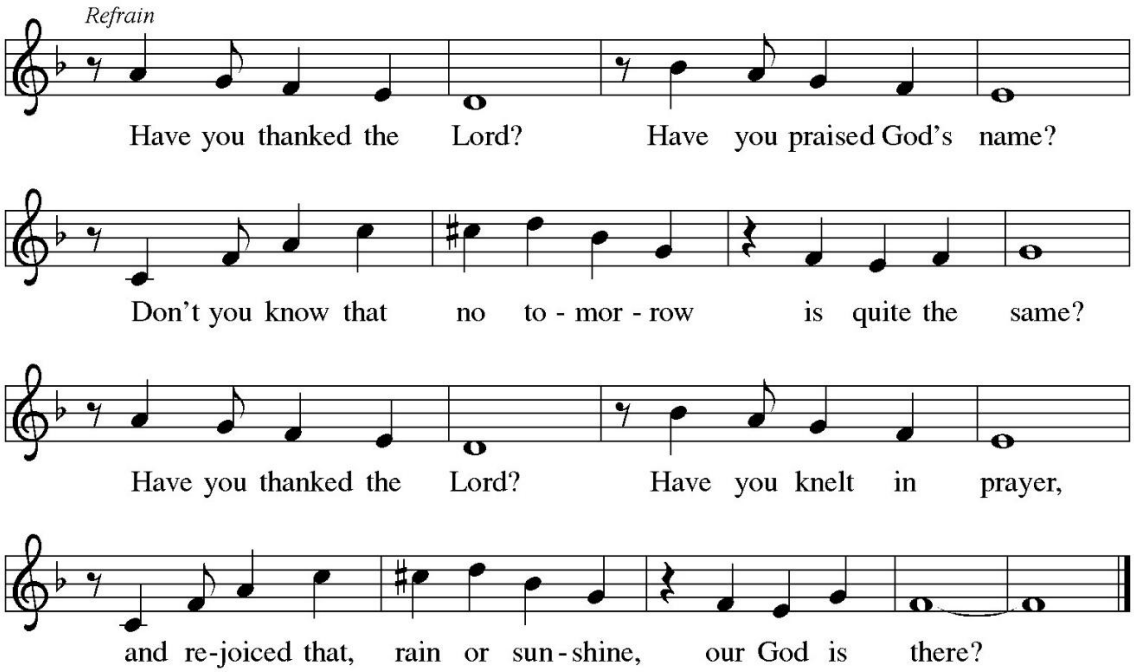
THE PEACE

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

OFFERING MUSIC: "Contemplation," by John M. Rasley, *played by Molly Finkbiner.*

OFFERTORY SONG

Have You Thanked the Lord?



OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

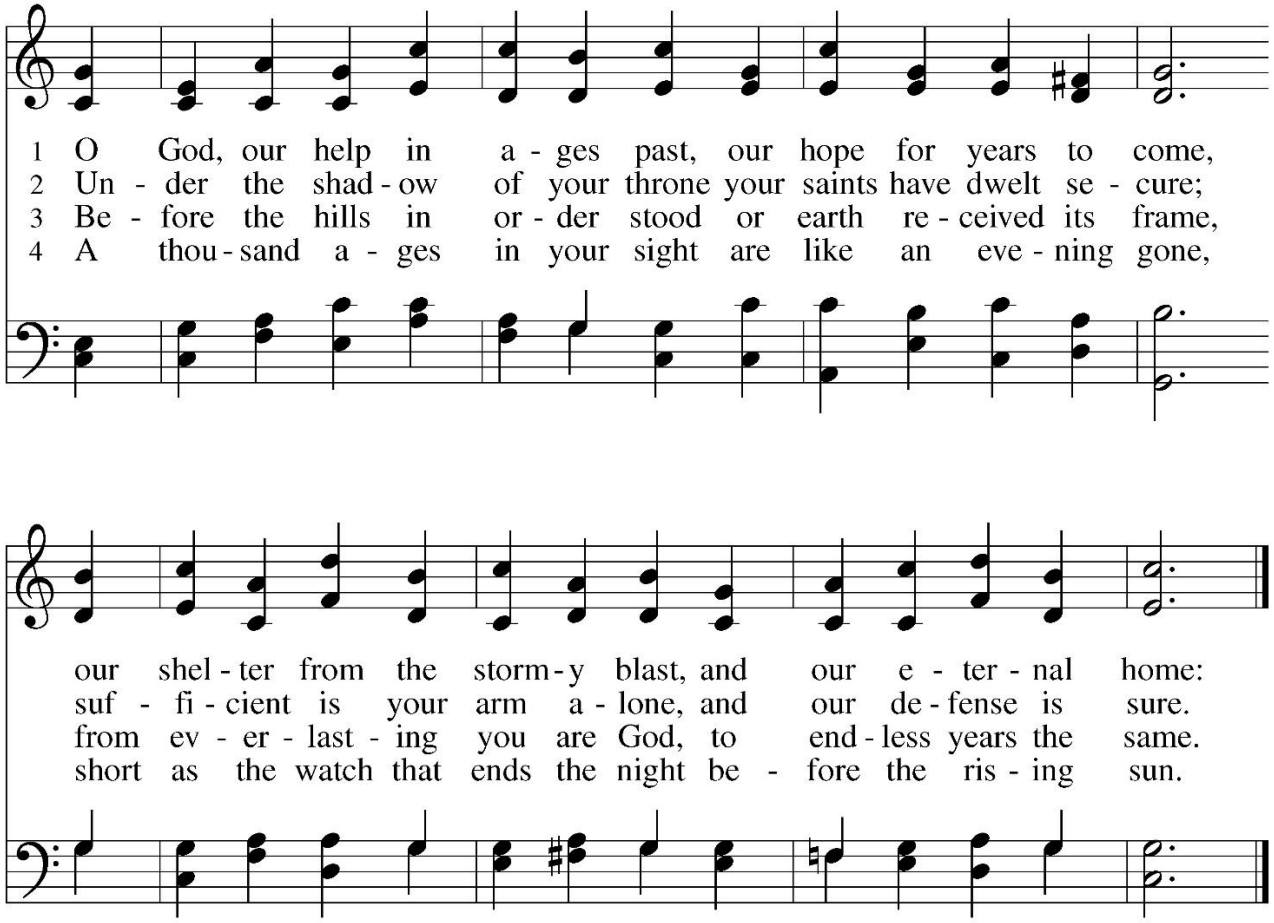
BLESSING

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



SENDING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all 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.**

November 15th, 2026 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

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Gathering Song:

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Hymn of the Day:

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Offering Music:

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Sending Hymn:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt., Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727. © Public Domain.

Postlude:

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Service Music:

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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