Reformation Sunday



October 25, 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

Minister: .....Pastor Jami Possinger
Lector.....John Lyman
Greeters/Ushers:.....Peggy Rapp
Communion Asst./Clean up:.....Jan Frantz/Peggy Rapp
Music: .....Molly Finkbiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers: donate by David and Barbara Laughlin in celebration of their grandson's birthday. "Happy 2nd Birthday, Americo Juan Mendez! Love Gigi & Pipi."

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 current title is, "Whistler," by Ann Patchett. Discussion of the book will take place today after worship service at Murphy's Loft.

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. (Nov. 3.) 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

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.

PRELUDES: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Please rise as you are able.

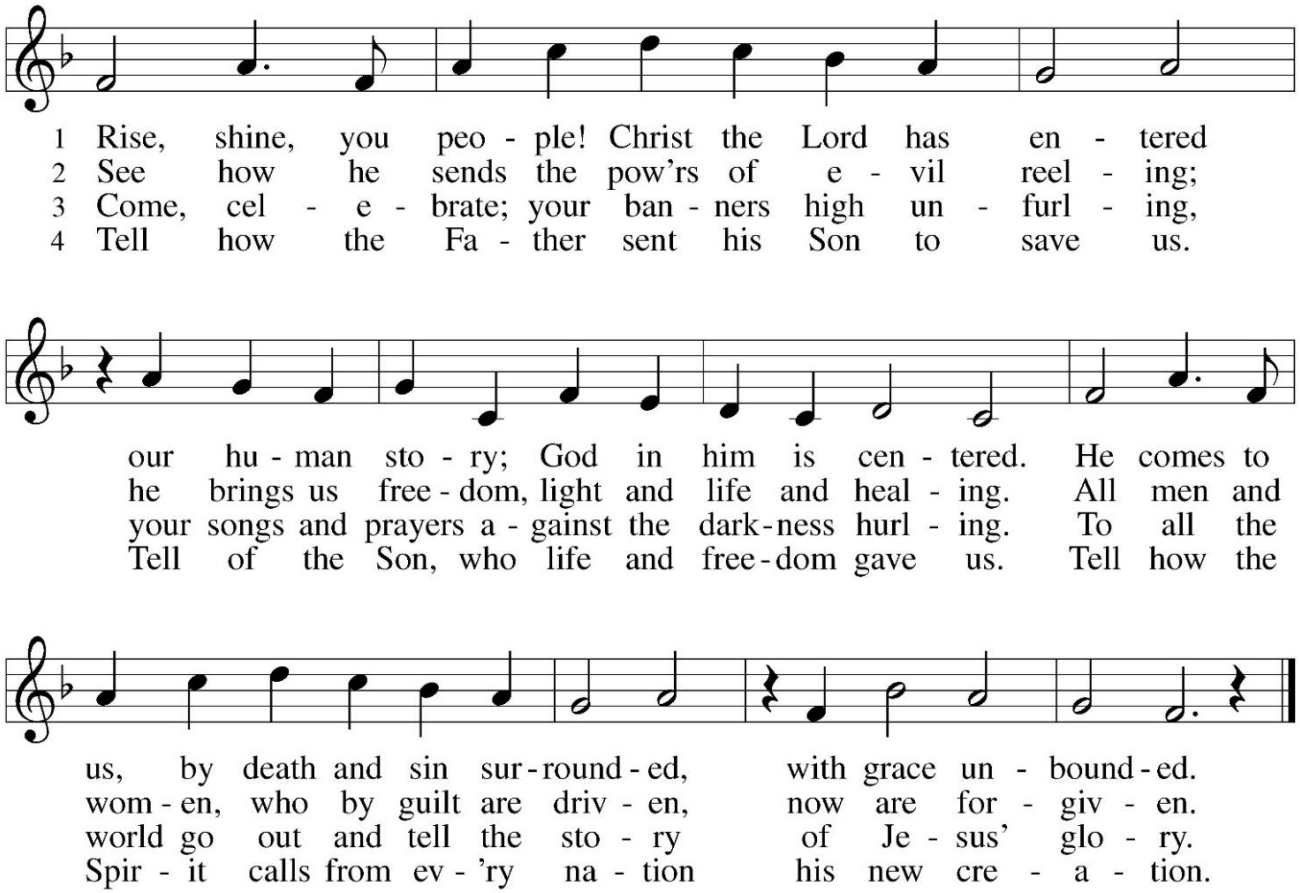
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**
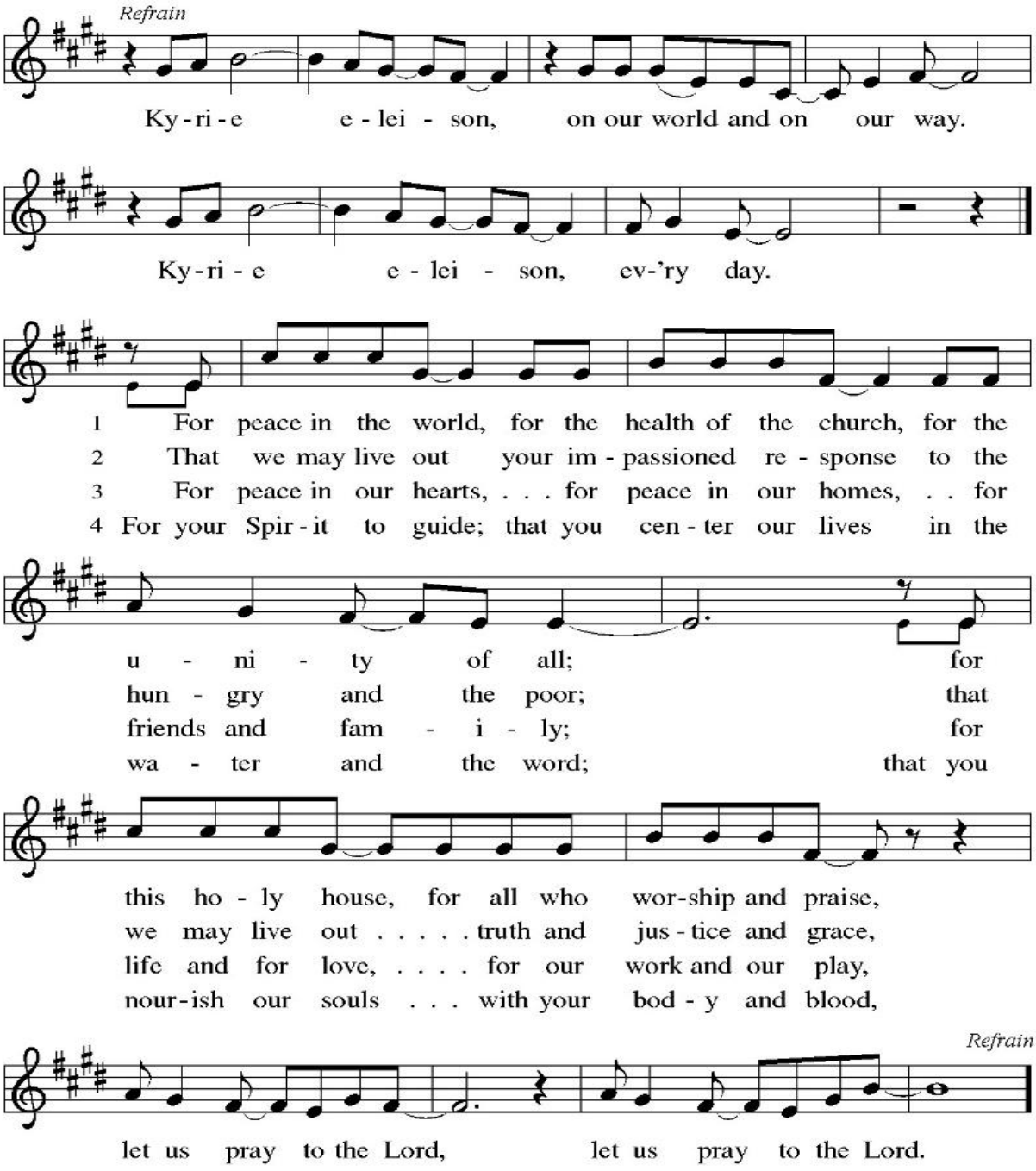
GATHERING HYMN "Rise, Shine, You People!" LBW 393
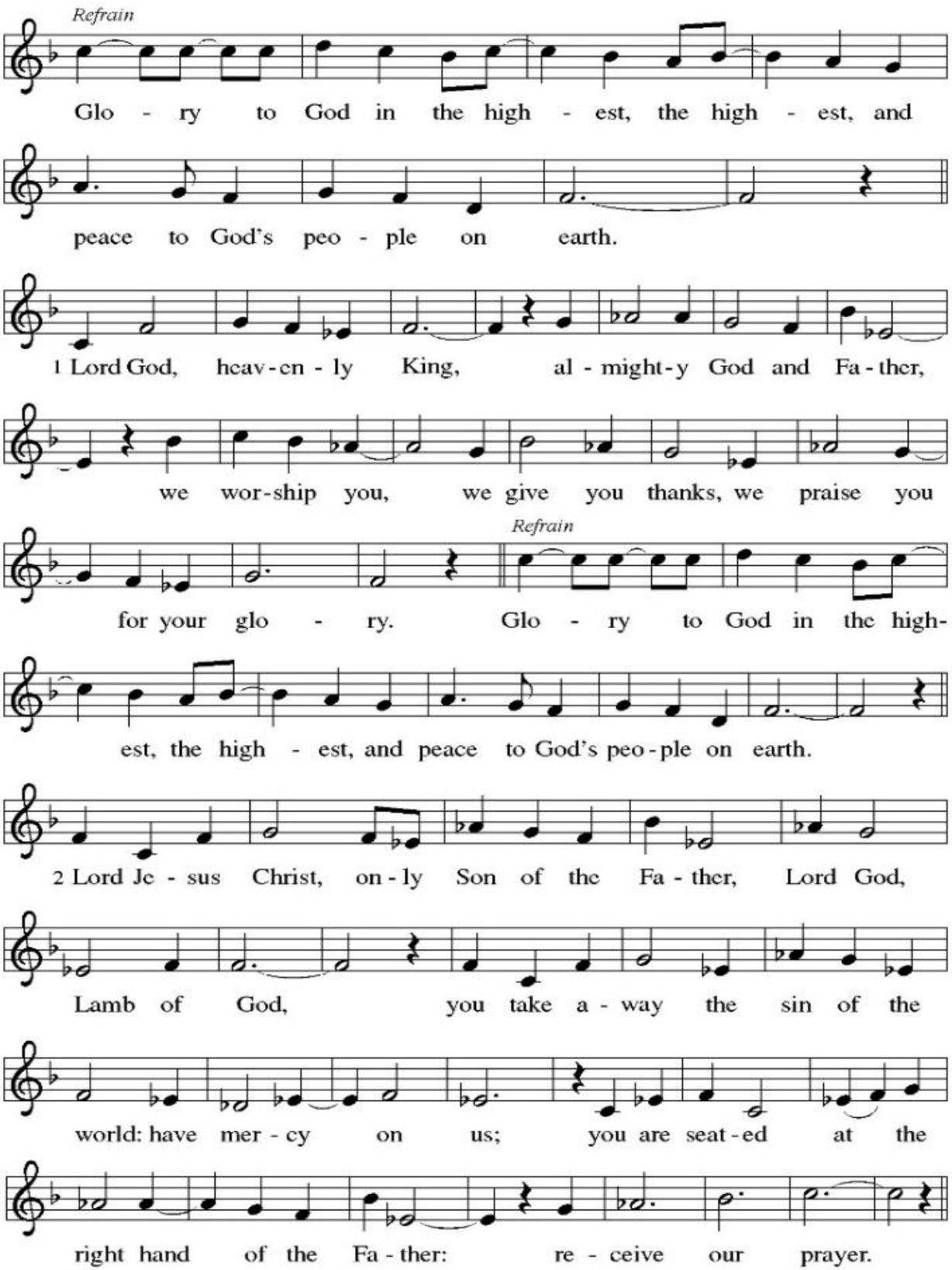


GREETING
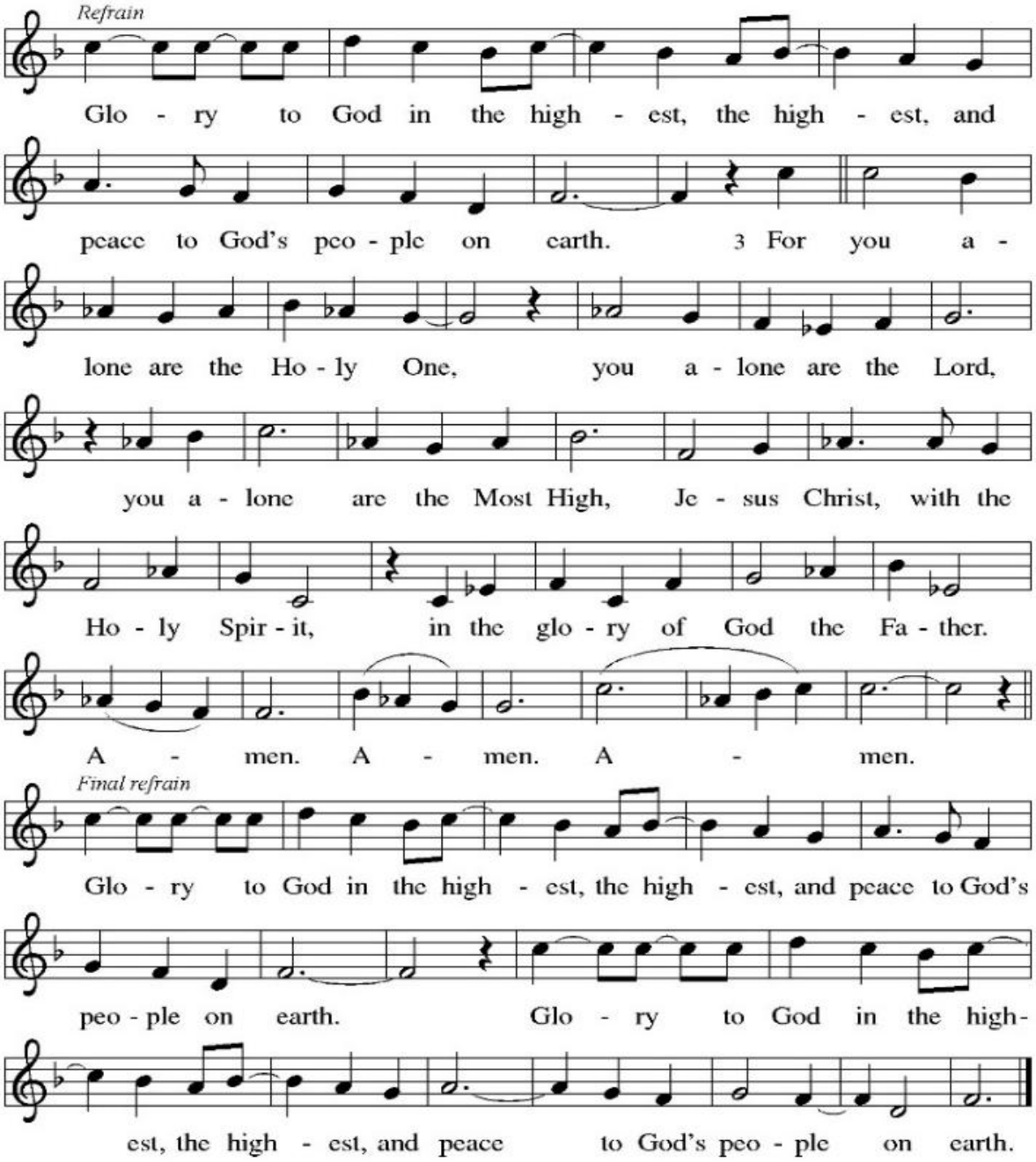
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST 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.

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

PSALM: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps.46:7)

1 God is our refuge 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 city 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.**

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8 **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon 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.

SECOND 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.

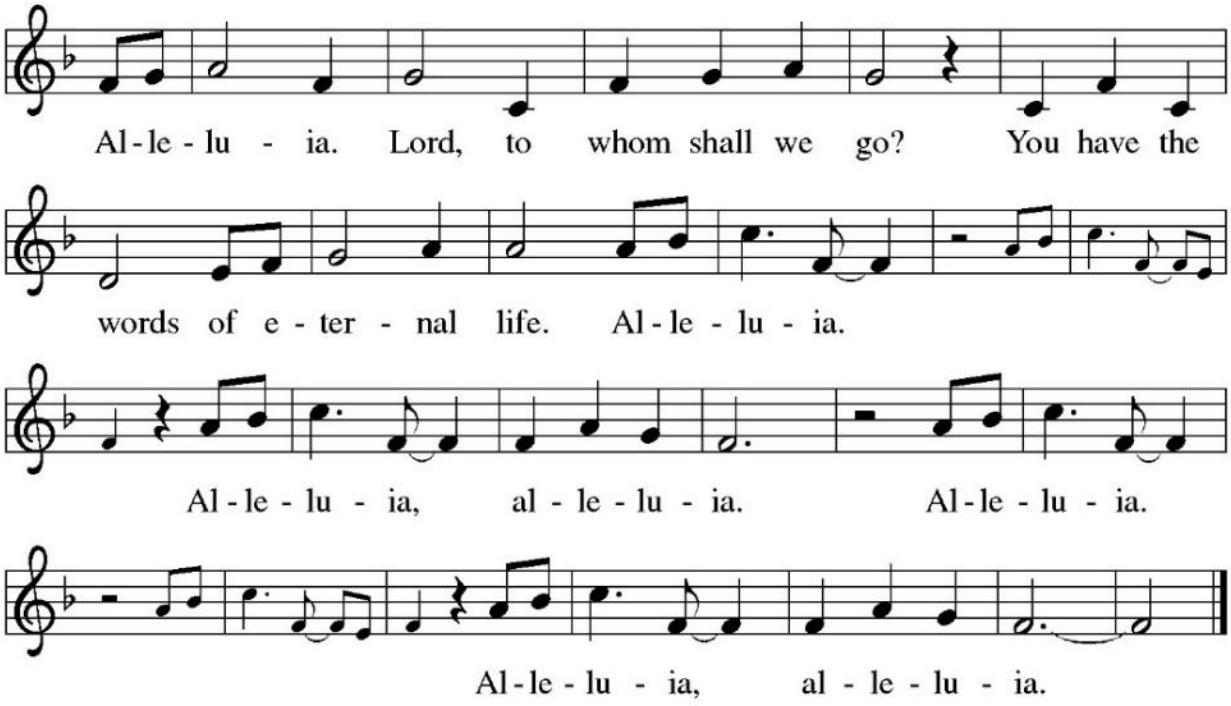
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by
the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all
who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God; 24 they 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.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **John 8:31-36**
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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.**

Please be seated.
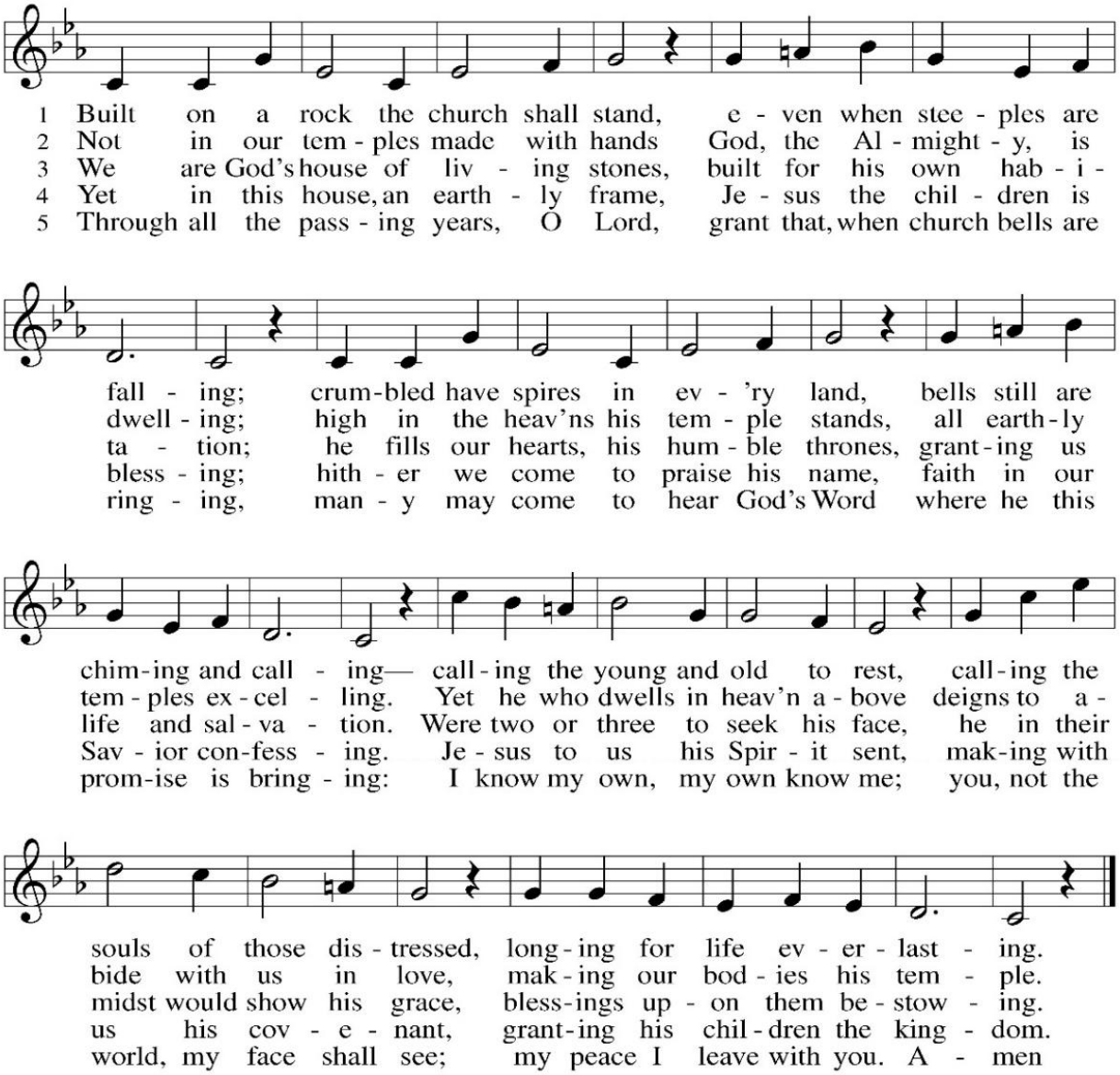
CHILDREN'S TIME

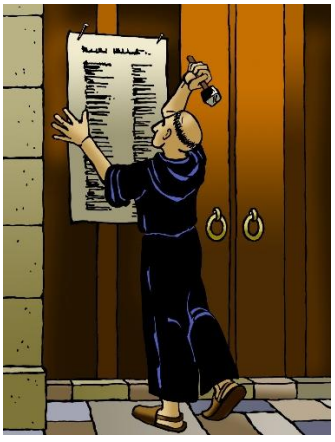
SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY **LBW 365**

Built on a Rock





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 OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PRAYER LIST

Jim H.; Megan; Larissa; Denis H.; William; Richard Z.; Danielle S.; David S.; Michael K.; Gail and Bob C.; Shirley S.; Justin E.; Ed. T.; Dale H.; Tom M.; Tom S.; Sabrina Mendez & Family; St. Peter, Plainfield.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

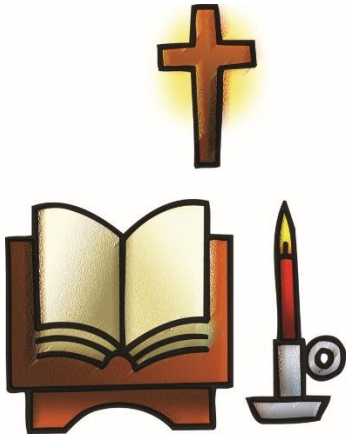
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE PEACE

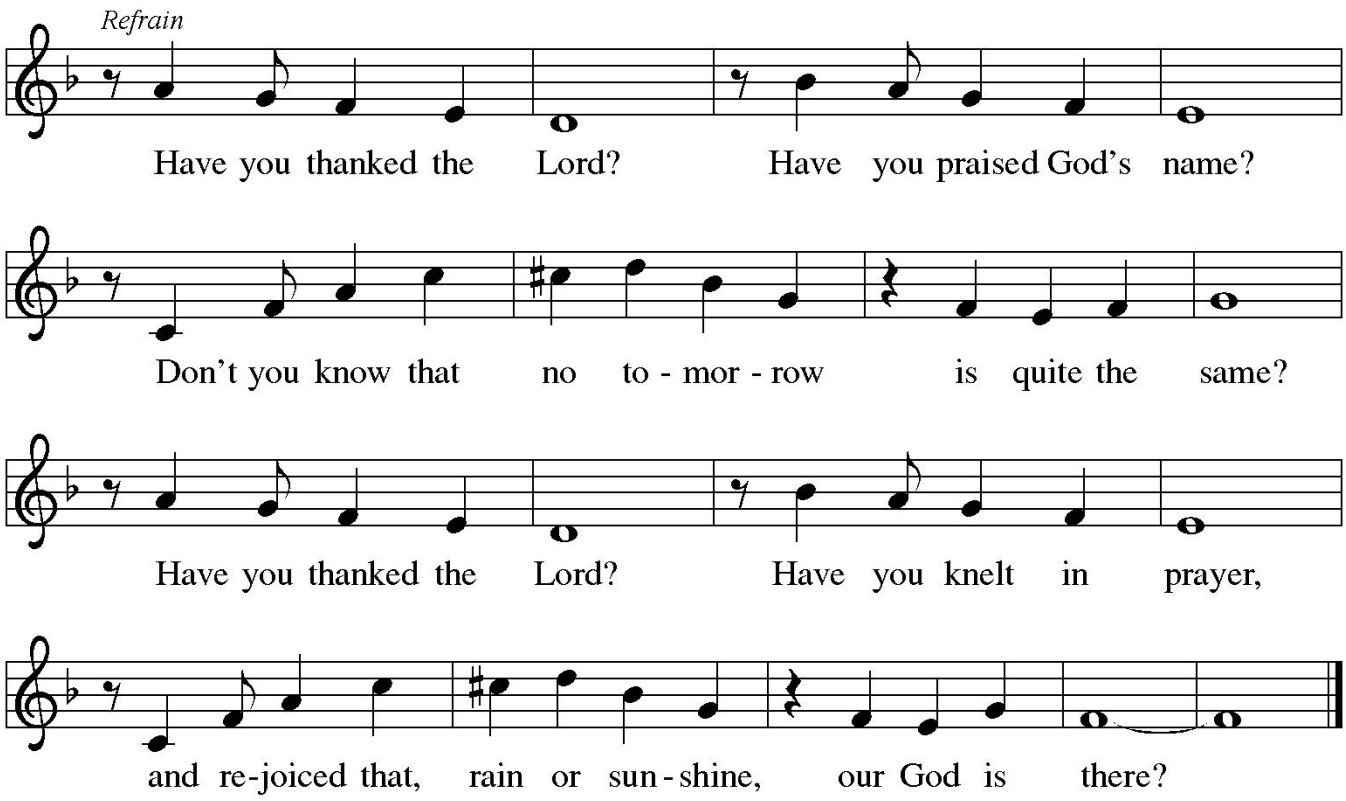
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING MUSIC: "Lobe den herren," Charles Callahn, *played by Molly Finkbiner.*



OFFERTORY SONG

Have You Thanked the Lord?



OFFERING PRAYER

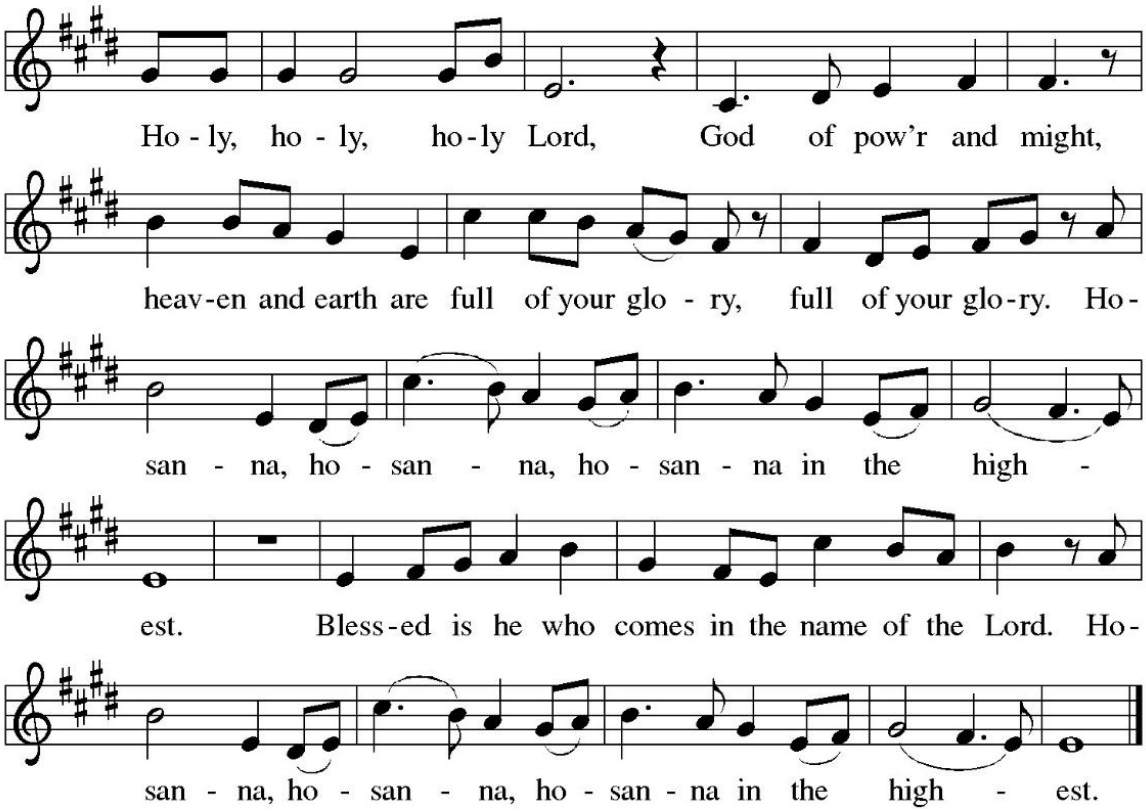
God of creation, all blessings are from you. Make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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 him thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in your truth. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**



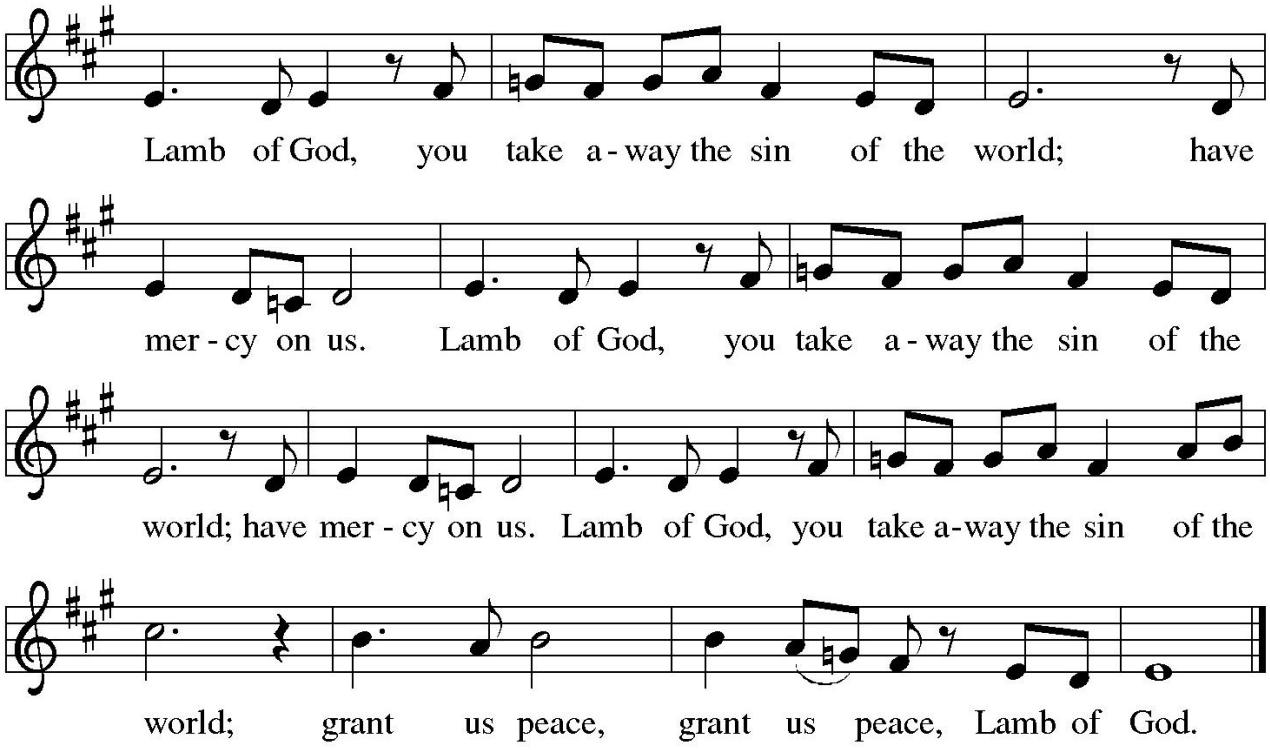
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD



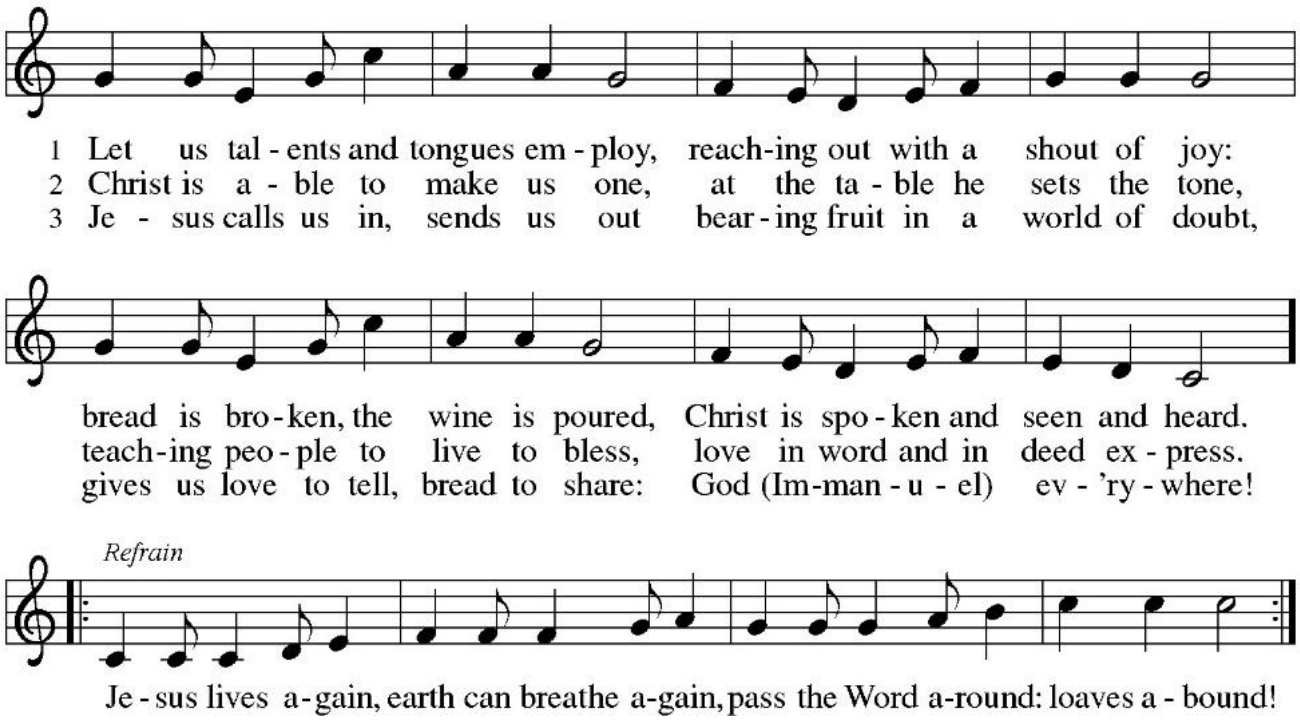
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**
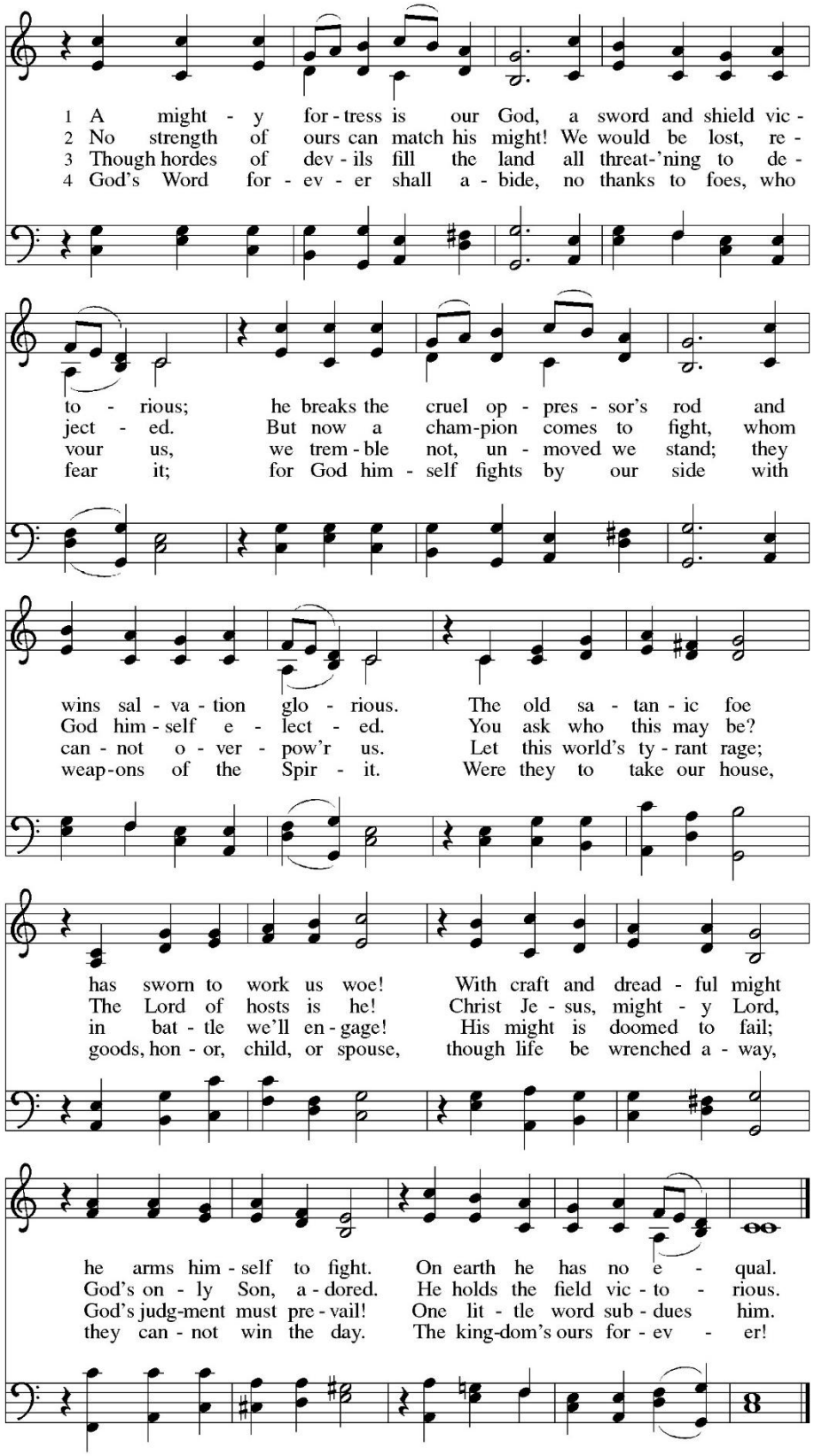
BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" LBW 229



DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

October 25th, 2026 – Reformation Sunday

Prelude:

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Gathering Song:

Rise, Shine, You People, Ronald A. Klug. © 1974, Augsburg Fortress. #01597. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

Hymn of the Day:

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Offering Music:

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Communion Music:

Amazing Grace, John Carter. © 2005 Augsburg Fortress. #206739. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

Sending Hymn:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt., Tune: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. © Public Domain.

Postlude:

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Service Music:

Kyrie, Glory to God, Alleluia, Holy, Lamb of God, Setting 8, Evangelical Lutheran Worship. © 2011 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Christmas Concert



Kathy Knittel, vocals
Joan Bujacich, piano and arrangements
Joe Bilotti, guitar

Holiday favorites and seasonal songs
with moments to sing along



with
The Songbird Trio

Saturday, November 21, 2026
3 p.m.

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas and the beauty of winter with the heartfelt harmonies of The Songbird Trio. Lead vocalist Kathy Knittel, pianist and arranger Joan Bujacich, and guitarist Joe Bilotti are delighted to return to Faith Lutheran Church, bringing new songs to share alongside familiar favorites, including the audience-loved "Wildfire."

From the youthful charm of "Skating" from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to the upbeat "'Zat You, Santa Claus?" and the sheer beauty of Gordon Lightfoot's "Song for a Winter's Night," the program offers a lovely mix of holiday favorites and seasonal tunes that will warm your heart.

The Songbird Trio will lift your spirits with unique arrangements and fine musicianship. You may even find yourself singing along during the audience participation numbers!

Faith Lutheran Church
550 Route 940, Pocono Lake, PA


Faith Lutheran Church
Friendsgiving
Sunday, November 22, 2026
Immediately after church
Join us for a Thanksgiving luncheon and fellowship.
Turkey and ham will be provided.
Please bring a covered dish to share.
A sign up sheet will be on the table at the back of the church to indicate the number of people attending and the dish.
You may also call the church office at (570) 646-0309 to reply.