24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 08, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
3401 S. Dixon Road
Kokomo, IN 46902
765.453.6183

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHRIST LUTHERAN!

FIRST TIME WORSHIPPING AT CHRIST LUTHERAN?

Christ Lutheran is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. We believe that worship is central to our life together, that our weekly gathering around Word and Sacrament strengthens us for our work as people of God in this and in every place. Please be sure to greet the Pastor at the back of the church after the service so she can get to know you better!

TIPS FOR FOLLOWING THE LITURGY

Numbers marked with the word "page…" in small case are in the front portion of the hymnal at the bottom left and right corners of the page. Numbers marked with the word "HYMN…" are in the back portion of the hymnal in the upper left and right corners of the page. Note that the psalms are numbered as hymns 1 – 150. Throughout the liturgy, text in **BOLD typeface** is spoken by the assembly. ** *Please know that at all times in the service where standing is indicated, you are most welcome to be seated if this is more comfortable for you.* **

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

At the second half of the service, we share Holy Communion. We would love for you to join us in this sacred moment. Instructions are on the back of this bulletin. All are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP – COFFEE & DONUTS!

We share fellowship, coffee & donuts (*provided by generous members*), and a time to connect, each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Please join us!

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

Prayer Request Cards are located on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Area. Please fill one out and place in the Offering Plate or in the basket on the table.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located by going through the hall off the main entrance. They are located through the doors on the left side of the building.

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

After office hours, an emergency contact can be made to Pastor Gladys Nwabah by calling (469) 735-7084.

Copyright permissions granted by the following: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103679. Portions from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Entrance Liturgy

PRELUDE
"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" *arranged by:* Johannes Brahms

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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.

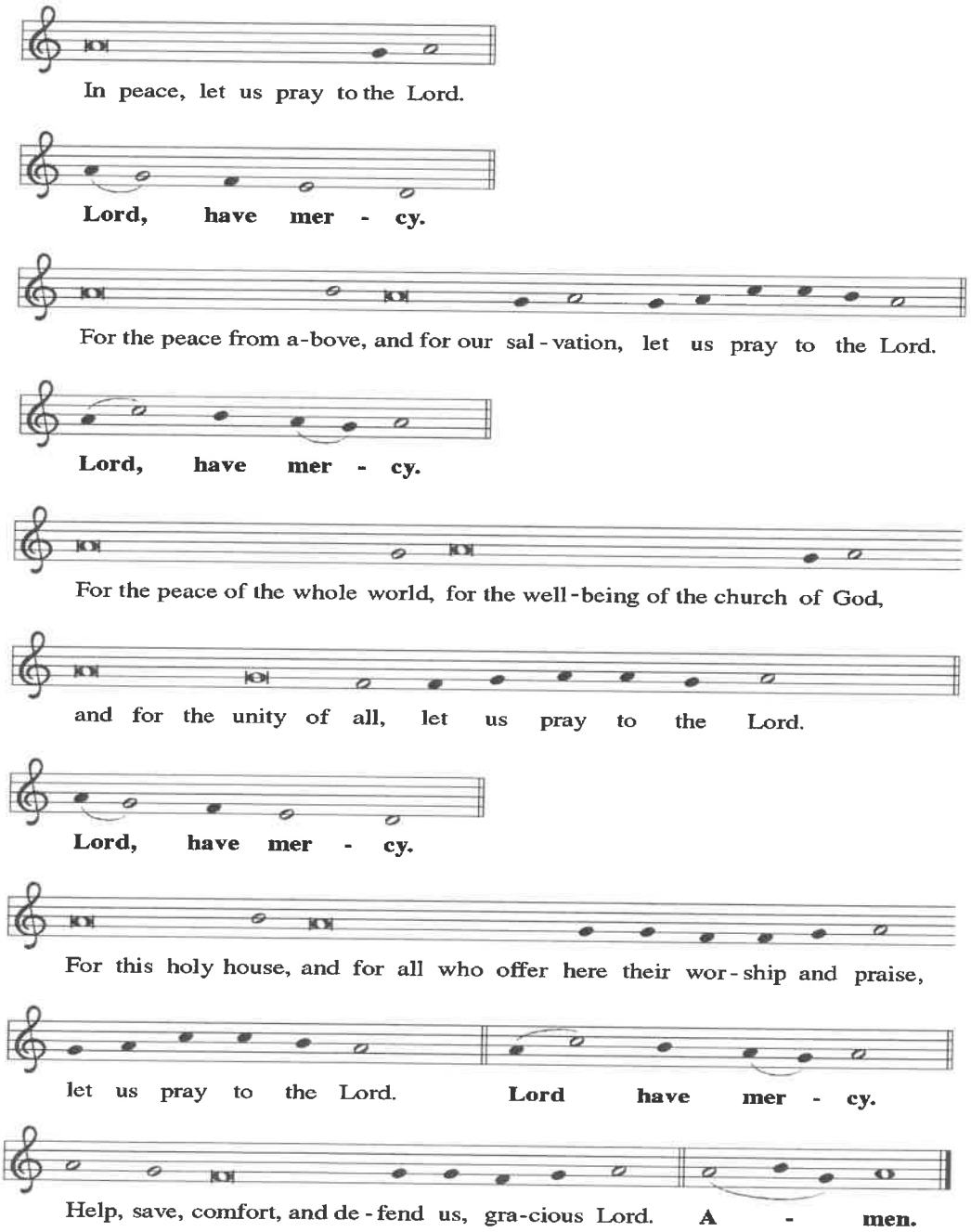
Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen

GATHERING HYMN
"Come, We that Love the Lord" HYMN 625
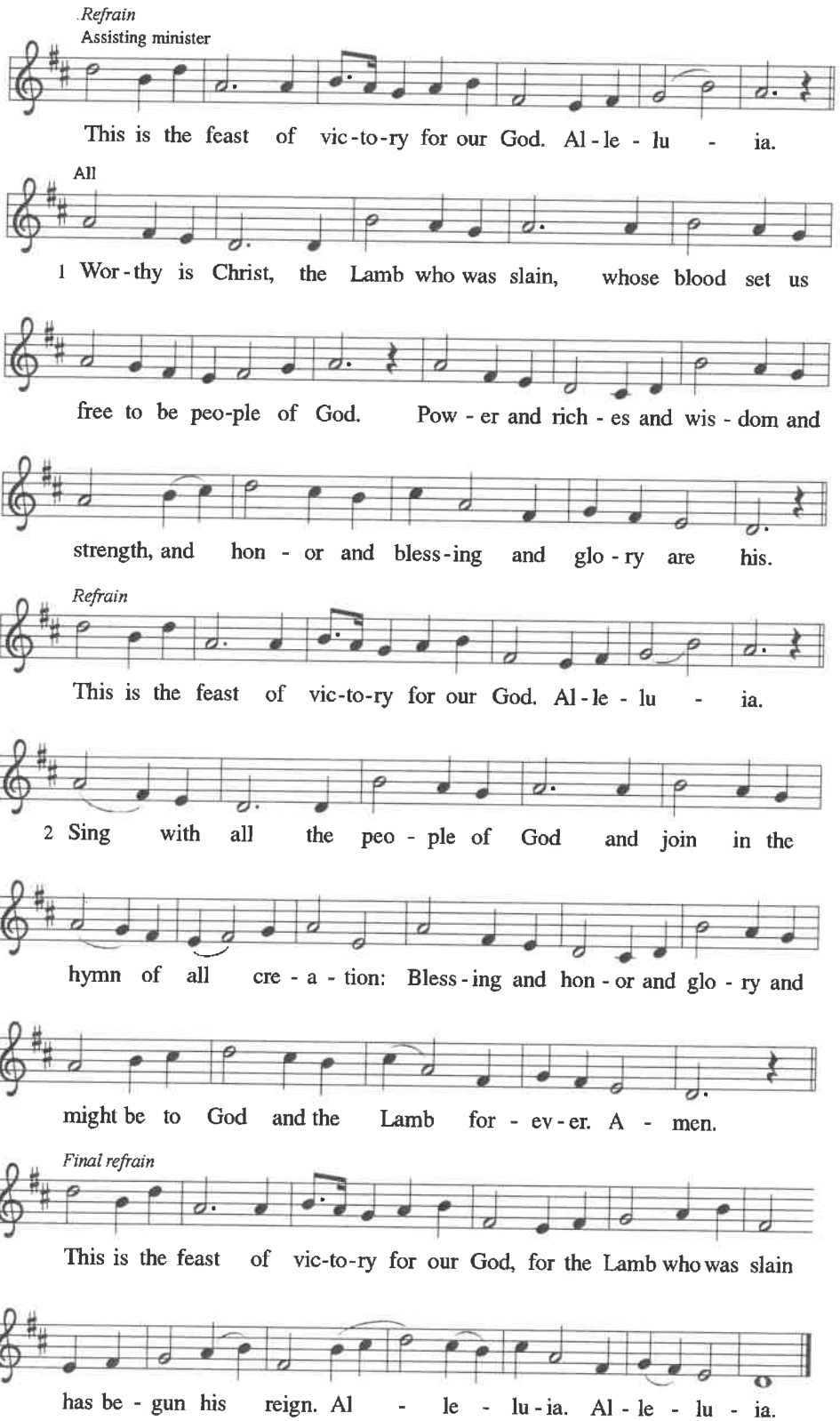
GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
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

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.
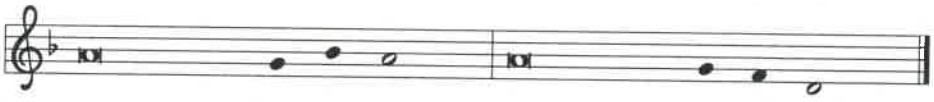
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.
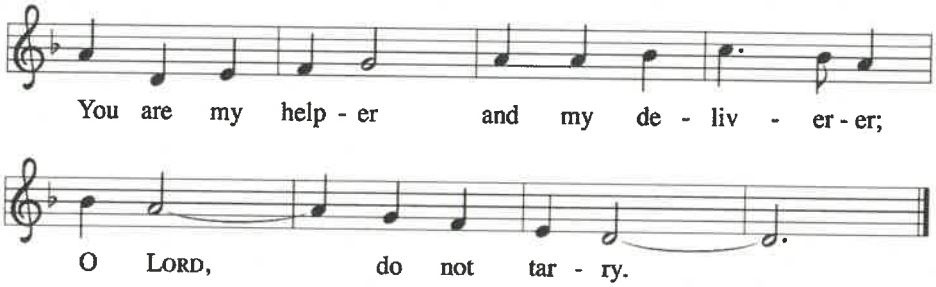
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 70

The cantor first sings the refrain, which is repeated by the choir/ congregation. The psalm is sung alternating between cantor and choir/ congregation. The refrain is sung where indicated.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.



Psalm 70:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.
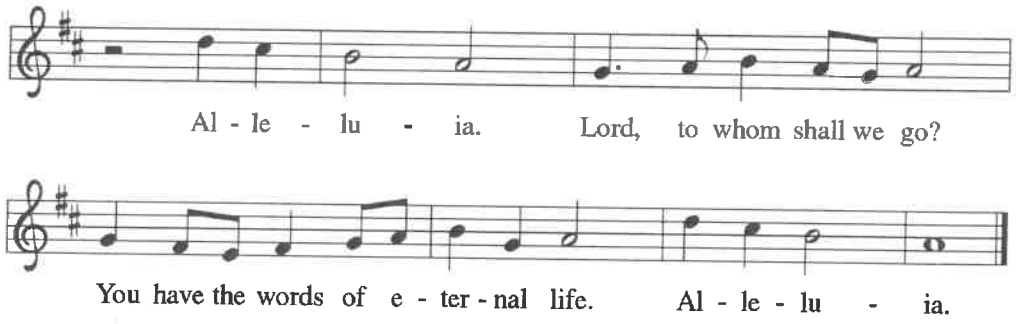
1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. **R**

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 4:13-18
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we
who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede
those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the
archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught
up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be
with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

SERMON — The Rev. Dr. Gladys Nwabah
The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" — HYMN 244

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Presentation of New Members
Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Scott Stipek has come to our congregation from *Redeemer Lutheran Church Kokomo.*

Apostles' Creed
The presiding minister may introduce the 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.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?
Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,
Do you promise to support and pray for *this* new *members* in *their* life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.
Welcome

Let us welcome Scott Stipek to this community of faith.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.

We give you thanks for *our new member*, Scott
whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ
and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.
Keep us close together in your Spirit,
in the breaking of bread and the prayers,
and in service to others.

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 (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). 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. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

PEACE
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.

OFFERTORY
"Here I Am" *arranged by:* Tony Alonso (Psalm 40)
CLC Parish Choir

OFFERING PRAYER *(standing)*
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.

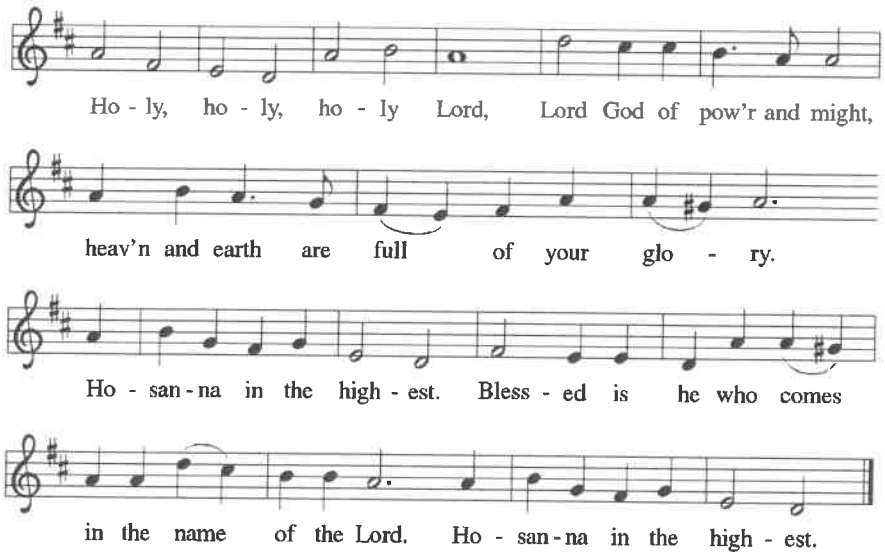
GREAT THANKSGIVING
DIALOGUE
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
surrounded by evil and bordered by death
we appeal to you,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.
We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace
and promised an end to injustice and harm.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection,
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.
Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make all things new in Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

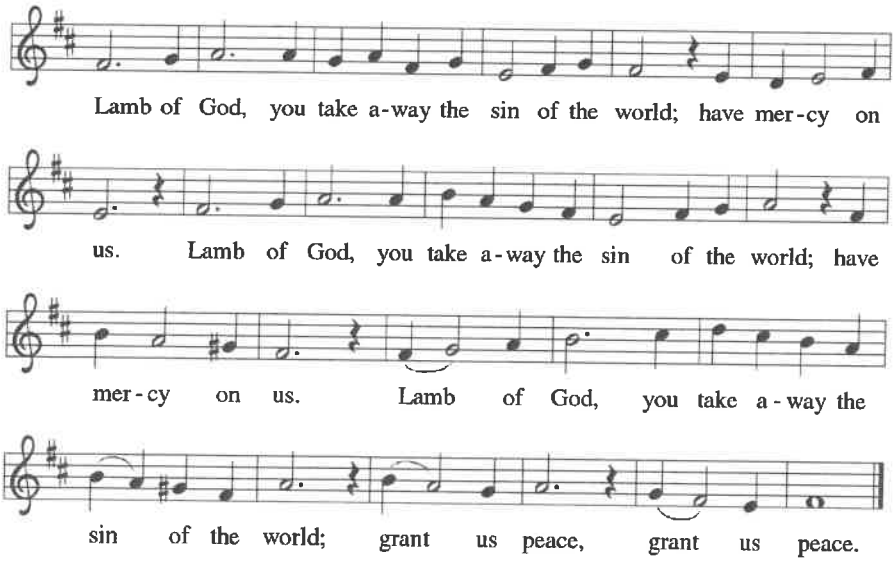
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

AGNUS DEI



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

COMMUNION HYMN
"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" HYMN 488

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
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 Liturgy of Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

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
"Soon and Very Soon"

HYMN 439

DISMISSAL
The presiding minister may send the assembly into mission.
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

arranged by: Frank Stoldt

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Dr. Gladys Nwabah
Music Minister & Organist:	Travis Person
Choir:	CLC Parish Choir
Lector:	Dan Macaluso
Acolyte:	Elaine Newman
Chalice Bearer:	Marty Ridoux
Altar Guild:	Nadine Owens
Greeters:	Amy Russell & Betty Spotts
Counters:	Bob Howell & Kevin Yeager
A/V Assistant:	Peter Kane

ALTAR FLOWERS
The Altar Flowers are sponsored by: Betty Spotts
…to the Glory of God for all his many blessings.

ETERNAL CANDLE
The Eternal Candle is sponsored by: Betty Spotts
…A glowing light for those gone but not forgotten.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, Kokomo
24th Sunday After Pentecost, November 8, 2026
Sermon by Rev. Dr. Gladys Nwabah

Sermon Topic: Ready for the Midnight Cry!
Scriptures: Amos 5:18–24 • Psalm 70 • 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 • Matthew 25:1–13

PREAMBLE: THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

When Jesus spoke about the "Kingdom of God" (or the "Kingdom of Heaven," as Matthew often phrased it), He painted vivid pictures: The Kingdom is like a mustard seed... like hidden treasure... like a net thrown into the sea.
In Matthew 25:1–13, Jesus revealed what the Kingdom is like at the end of the age. It is not merely a geographic location or a future destination; the Kingdom of God is the active, sovereign reign of God through Jesus Christ.

WEDDING IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (MATT. 25:1–13)

In today's gospel reading, Jesus taught His followers about His return using a familiar cultural context: ten bridesmaids waiting for a wedding feast to begin.
In the ancient Near East, a wedding was a multi-day celebration of joy, community, and covenant. The climax came when the bridegroom traveled to the bride's home to escort her and her wedding party back to his father's house. Because the groom's exact arrival time was not fixed, the bridesmaids had one central job: **be ready when he arrives.**
The bridesmaids needed lamps to light the night procession through dark streets into the feast. A lamp is designed to hold oil and burn brightly—a lamp without oil is just a hollow shell that cannot fulfill its purpose when darkness falls. Five bridesmaids brought lamps with plenty of extra oil, while five brought only their lamps with little oil.

SPIRITUAL READINESS & EXTERNAL PROFESSION

Jesus told this parable just days before His crucifixion. To say "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ten virgins" means that God's reign demands a specific heart posture right now: vigilance, spiritual readiness, and unwavering devotion.

- **The Lamp:** Represents our external profession of faith—our visible walk with God, our ministry, church attendance, and the light we let shine before others (Matt. 5:16).
- **The Hidden Oil:** Represents the living, personal presence of the Holy Spirit inside us.

Jesus revealed a crucial truth about waiting for Him: *There is a profound difference between looking like we are waiting for Jesus and actually being ready for Him.*

PREPARATION IS TESTED BY THE DELAY

"The bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept." — Matthew 25:5
All ten bridesmaids had lamps and looked identical from the outside. Strikingly, all ten fell asleep while waiting; the foolish were not condemned for dozing off, as human fatigue touches everyone during a long wait. The true difference lay in what they carried on the inside: their forethought.

The Five Foolish Virgins

- Brought lamps, but no extra oil.
- Planned for a quick, convenient arrival.
- Assumed initial excitement would carry them through.

The Five Wise Virgins

- Brought extra oil in jars alongside their lamps.
- Anticipated a potential delay.
- Prepared for endurance, not just enthusiasm.

It is easy to follow Jesus when emotion is high and life is smooth. But true spiritual readiness is designed for the long night—when prayers aren't answered on our timeline and weeks turn into years of waiting.

Communion at Christ Lutheran Church

Please know that if you feel called to share in communion with us you are welcome to do so! You may also come forward for a blessing by coming to the altar as described below and crossing your arms across your chest.

When the time comes, the pastor will indicate that the choir and choral scholars will come forward. The assembly will then come forward pew-by-pew. You can follow someone easily. When you reach the altar, go to the side that corresponds to the side of the church where you have been sitting (e.g. if you sat on the right side of the center aisle, go to the right side of the altar). You may stand or kneel as you prefer.

You can hold out your hands, palms up, to receive the bread. A second person will come to give you wine. The glasses in the center section contain fruit juice. Consume the bread and then the wine (or juice).

You may choose to receive communion in the form of the bread only; this is considered not only valid but also a full and complete participation in communion.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
And each person may respond Amen.

When you finish, you exit on the side where you took communion (e.g. to the right if you are on the right of the altar). Please place your empty glass in the container on the stand located near the first row of pews. Continue down the side aisle and then return to your seat. Thank you for worshipping with us, and may the presence of Jesus in the bread and wine remain in your heart and soul until you return to worship with us again!

Ways to Support the Mission of Christ Lutheran Church:



Online
Visit **www.christlutherankokomo.org** and click **E-GIVING** to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a gift.



QR CODE
Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



In Person
Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your gift. Please place your donation in an offering envelope and drop them in the offering plate at the back of the church. Thank you!