LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Gathering through the love of Christ to care, grow, and serve.

25th Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026

10:00 Worship

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude For the Fruit of All Creation Arr. Tom Keesecker

Tom Keesecker, piano

Please stand as able, facing the back of the church.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.
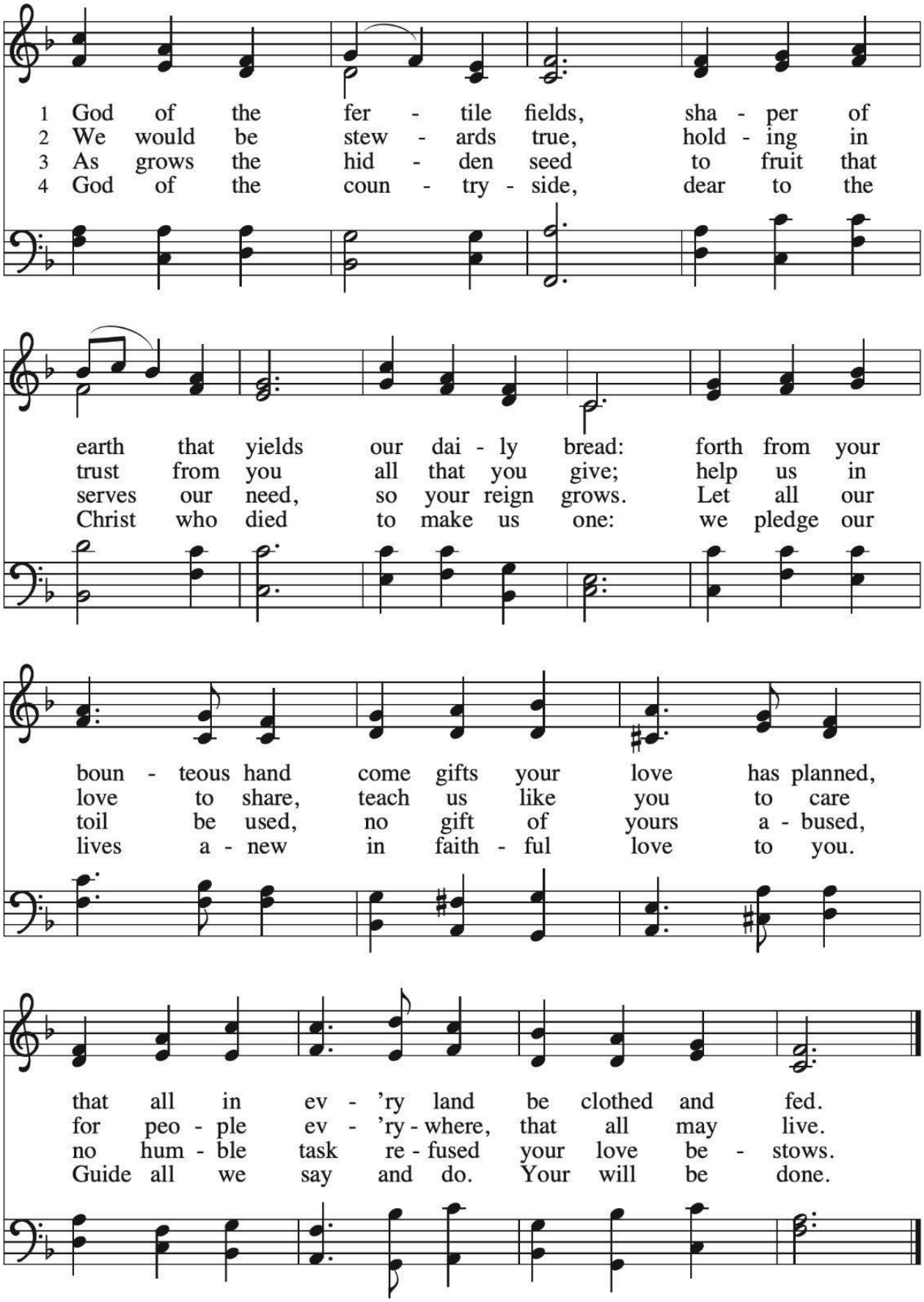
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

Hymn

God of the Fertile Fields



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.**
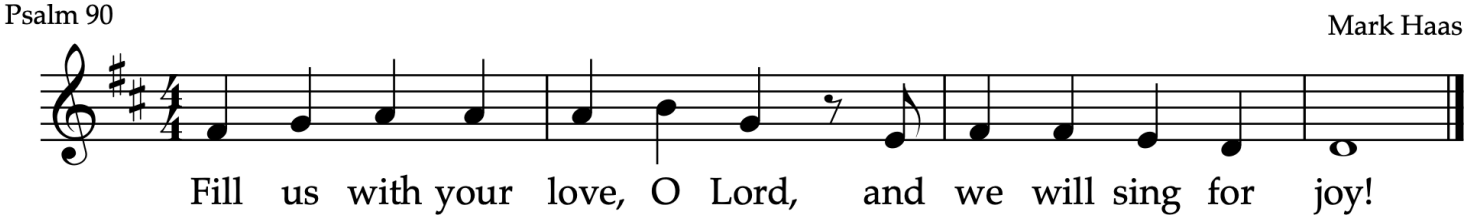
Please be seated

Faith in Focus

Word

First Reading
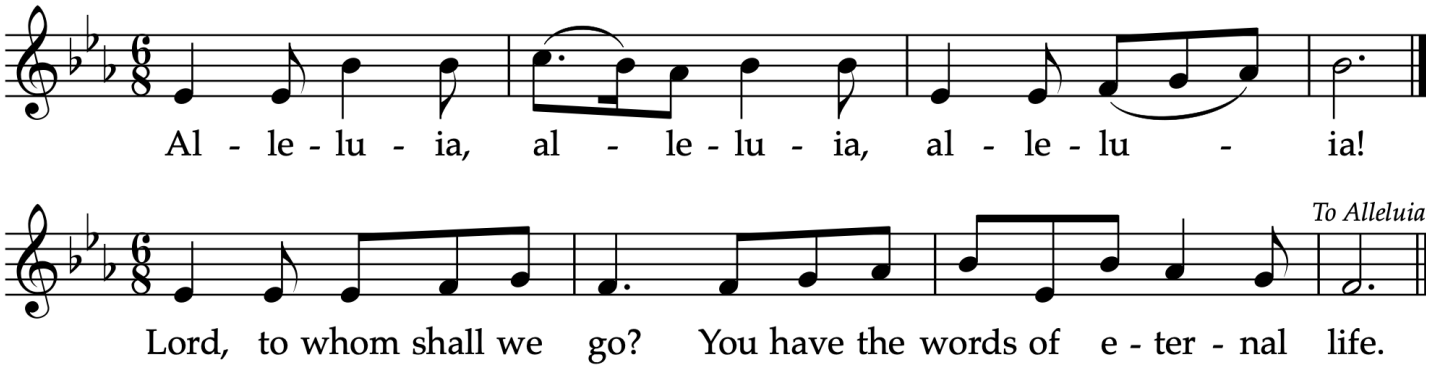
Psalm



Second Reading

Please stand as able at the introduction

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

Please be seated

Sermon Aaron Davis, Vicar

Response to the Word

Hymn of the Day For the Fruits of All Creation ELW 679

Apostles' Creed

Let us profess 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

Rooted in Grace, Growing for Tomorrow — Debbie McGinnis

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Greet those near you and then be seated.

Meal

Offering — Take My Life and Let It Be — Tom Kessecker

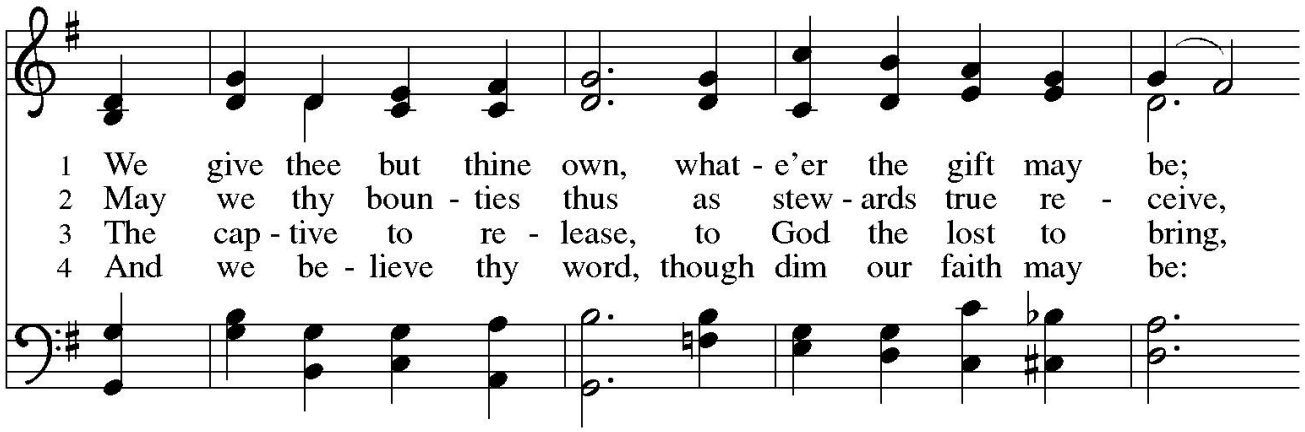
Please stand as able
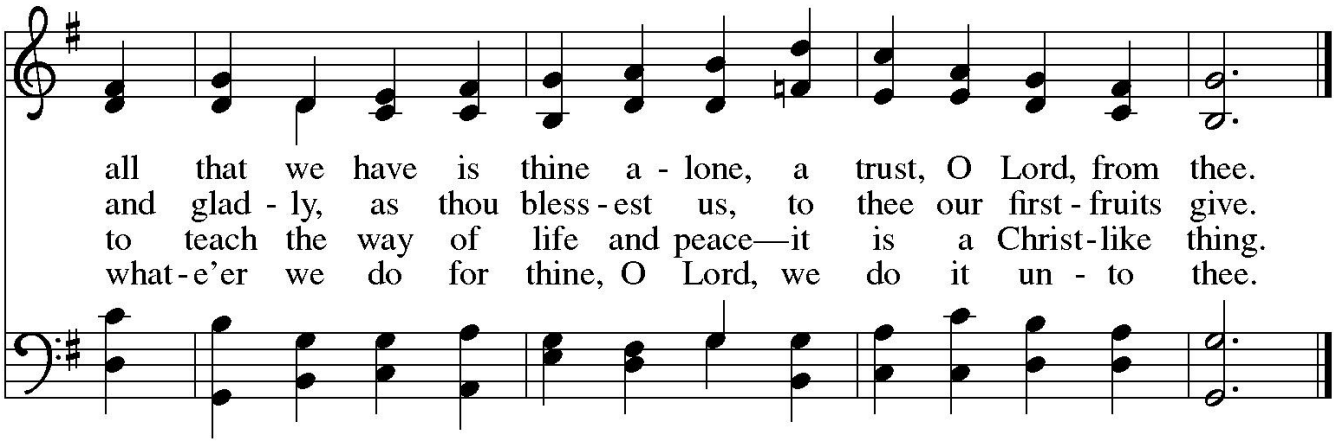
Offering Response

During the singing of our response after the ushers have returned to the back, please come forward to place your intent cards in the basket.

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Verses 2 and 3 in parts as able





Offering Prayer

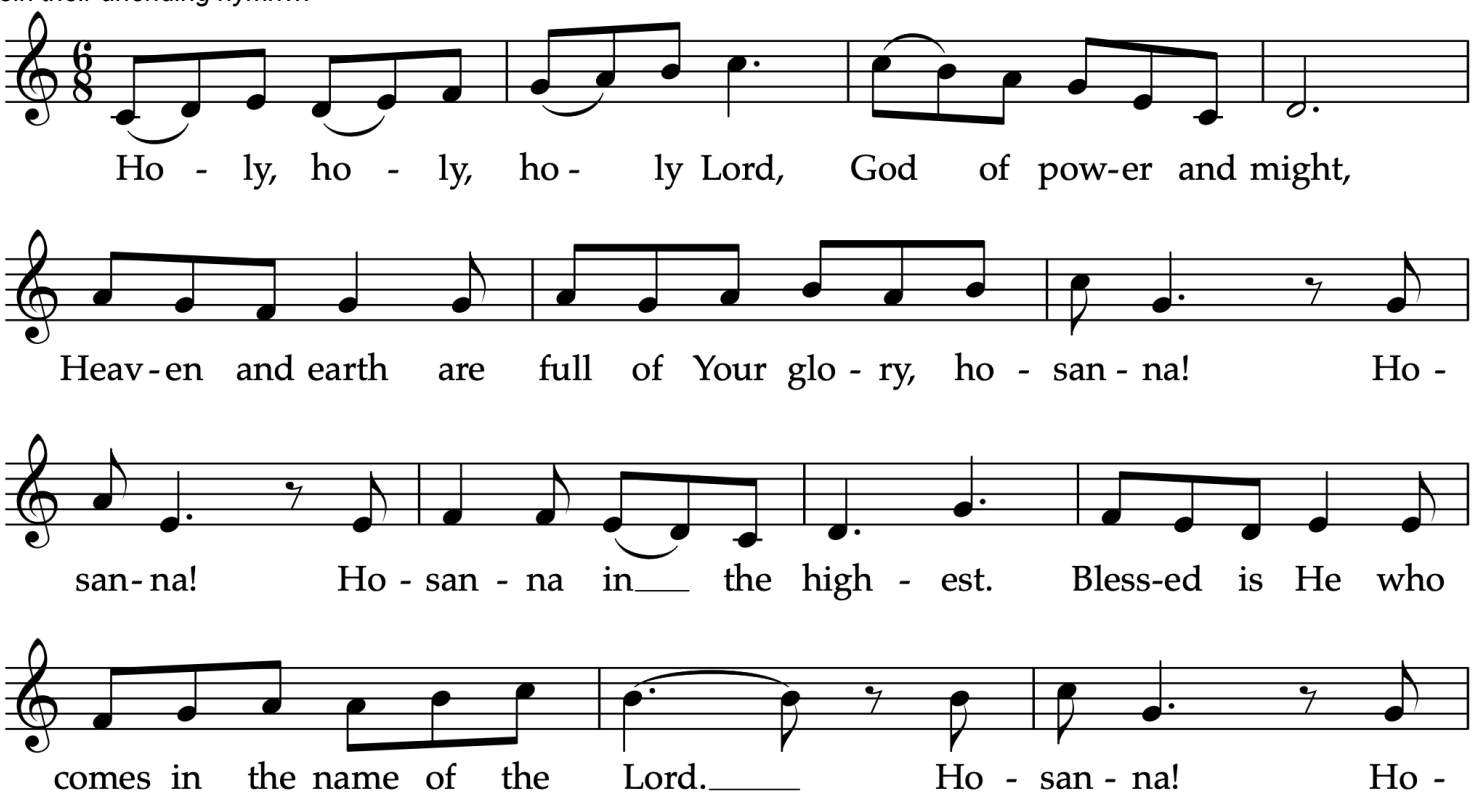
A: Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. **Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until no one is hungry and all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

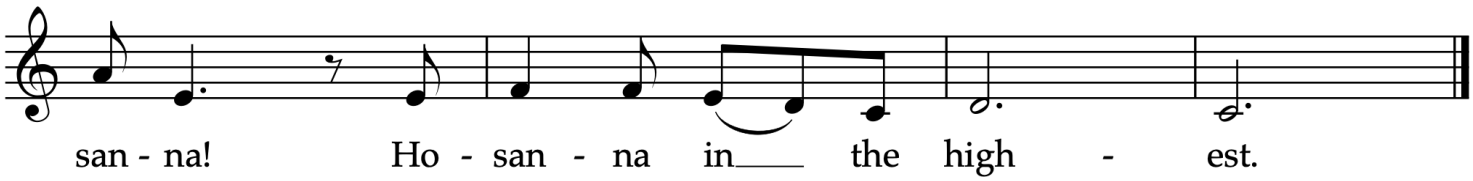
Great Thanksgiving

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.

Preface
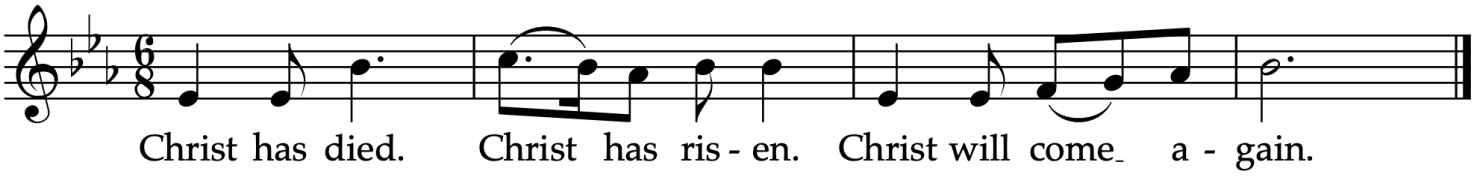
join their unending hymn…





Memorial Acclamation

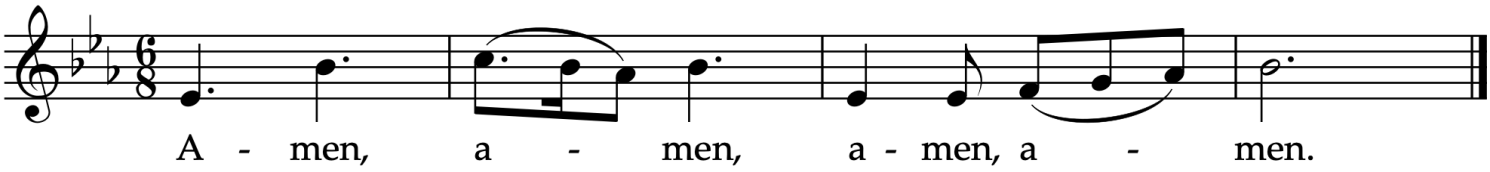
Until he comes…



And let the church say, Amen. ***Amen.***

Amen

Now and forever…



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

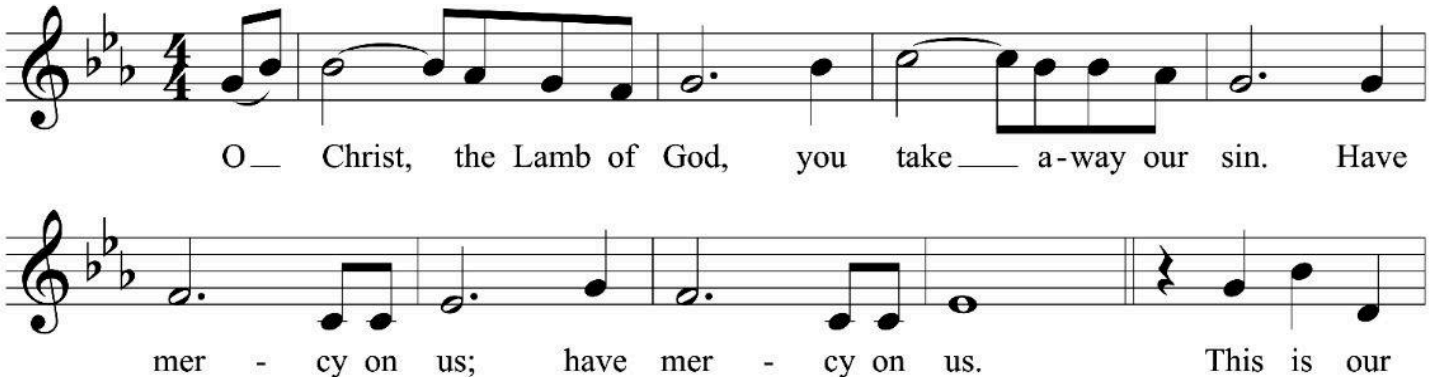
Invitation to Communion
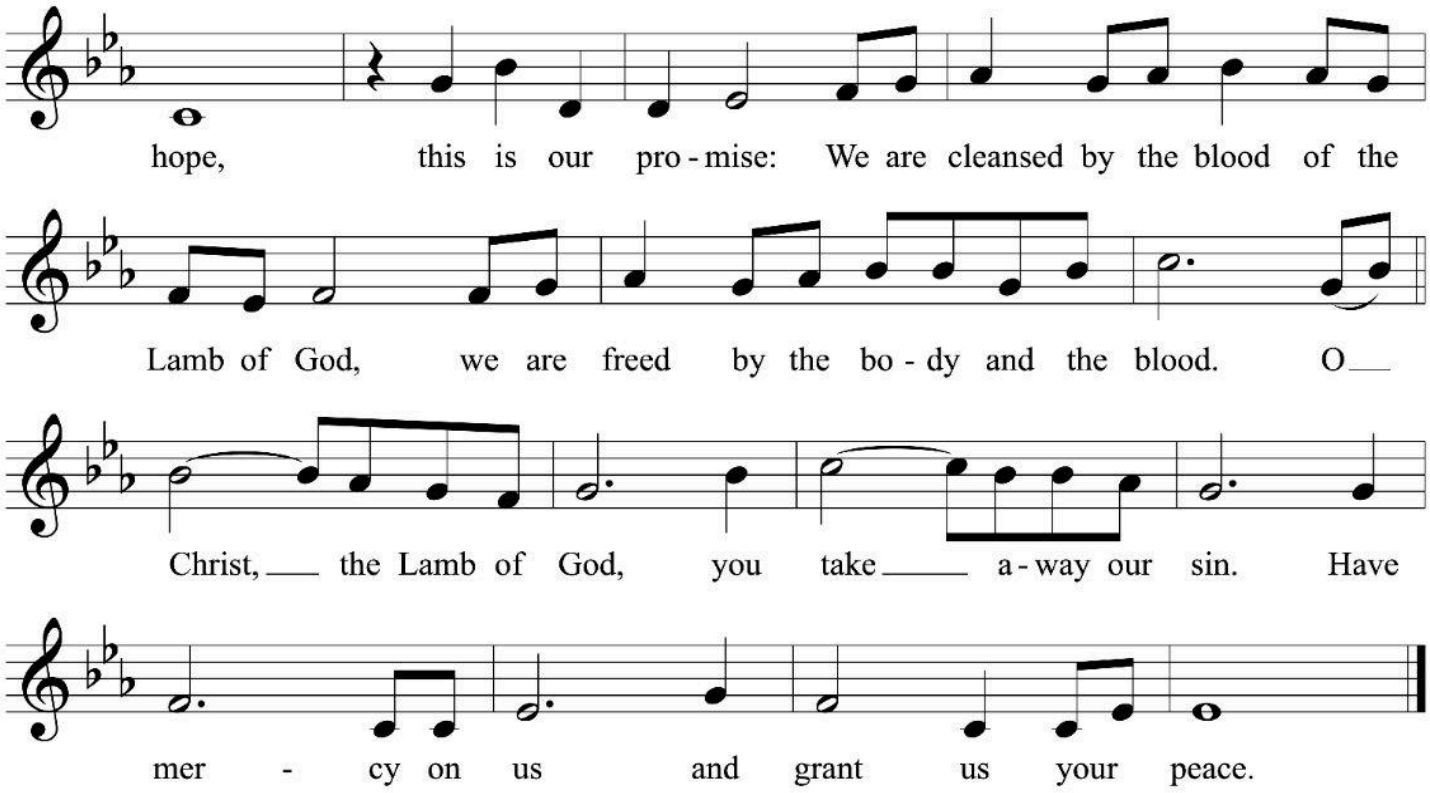
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

This is the feast of all the baptized, regardless of denomination. All are welcome.

Please be seated

Lamb of God





Communion

Please bring an empty cup to the altar rail from the station in the center of the main aisle. Grape juice is available. A gluten-free, celiac-friendly option is also available. Please ask the server if you require a gluten-free option. If you wish not to commune, come forward with your arms over your chest for a blessing.

Music During Communion

Praise and Thanksgiving - Arr. Tom Keesecker

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

A: 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.**

Sending

Blessing

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

Hymn Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674

Please be seated

Postlude Over the River and Through the Wood Arr. Tom Keesecker

Dismissal

A: As disciples of Jesus at Nativity, **we are gathering through the love of Christ to care, grow, and serve. Amen.**

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SAS004229,
One License A-701802, CCLI# 11156504, CCLI# 20494161.

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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 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.

Matthew 25:14-30

[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.' "