ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335
www.stjohn-elca.org; om@stjohn-elca.org
248-474-0584

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

November 22, 2026
10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D
Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann
Office Manager
Marie Cook

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: Ride On, King Jesus Spiritual, arr. By Harvey B. Gaul

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN: Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855 V1 V2 and V5



GREETING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: 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.

P: 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.**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: ACS SETTING 12



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray… O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

A: 11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,
by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good
pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in
good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself
will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will
seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and
the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak
animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they
shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall
feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David
shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

A: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

A: Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C: **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

A: For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C: **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

A: The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C: **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

A: For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

A: [15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ACS SETTING 12



Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

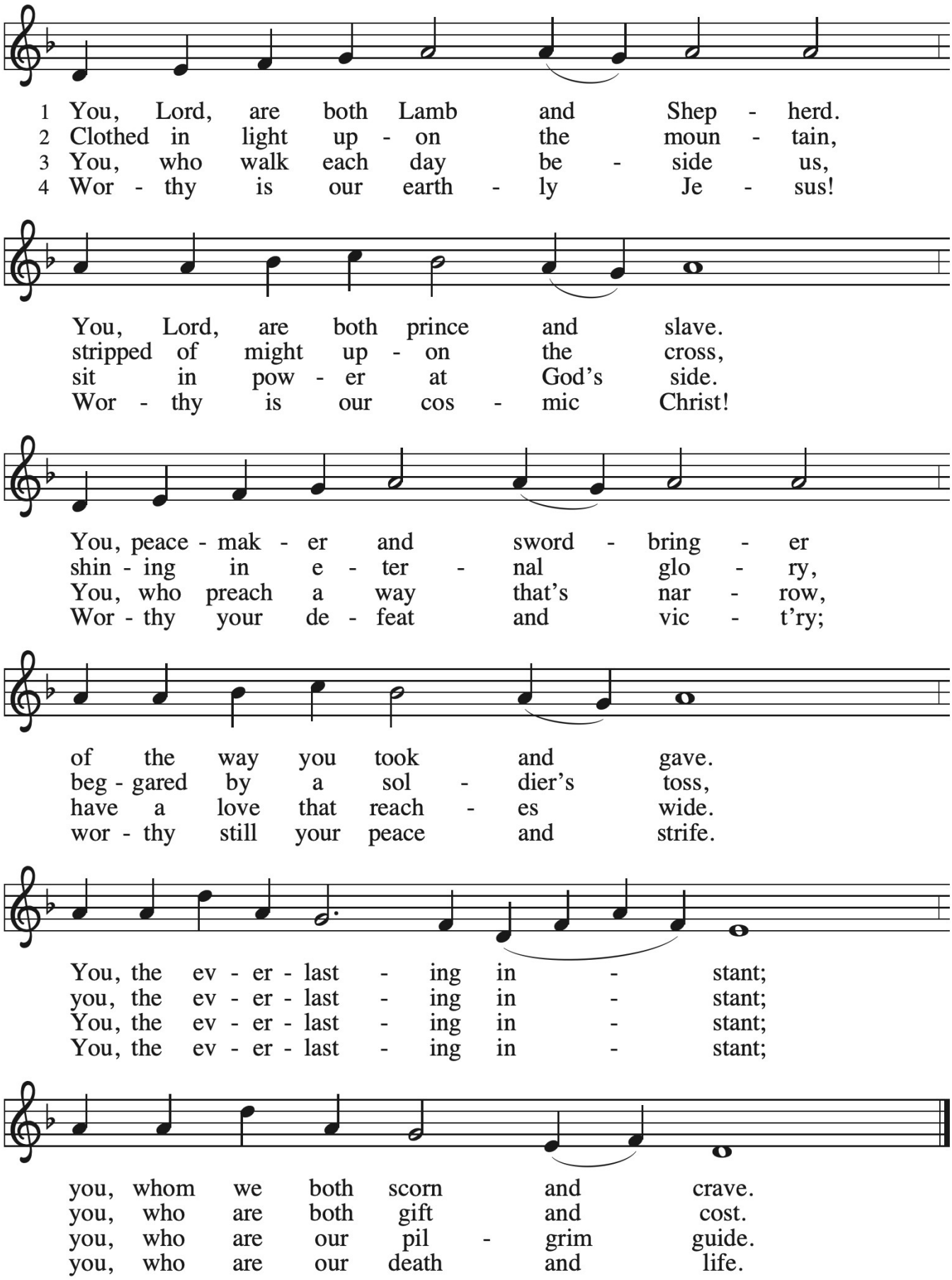
P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels
with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before
him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from
the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the
king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave
me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it
that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And
when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters
of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry
and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger
and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and
you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he
will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did
not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into
eternal life."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON: "Is Christ Your King?" Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd ACS 954



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

ST JOHN CHOIR ANTHEM: God Almighty Is! M. MacDonald

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

A: Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination (places or events may be named). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (especially). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

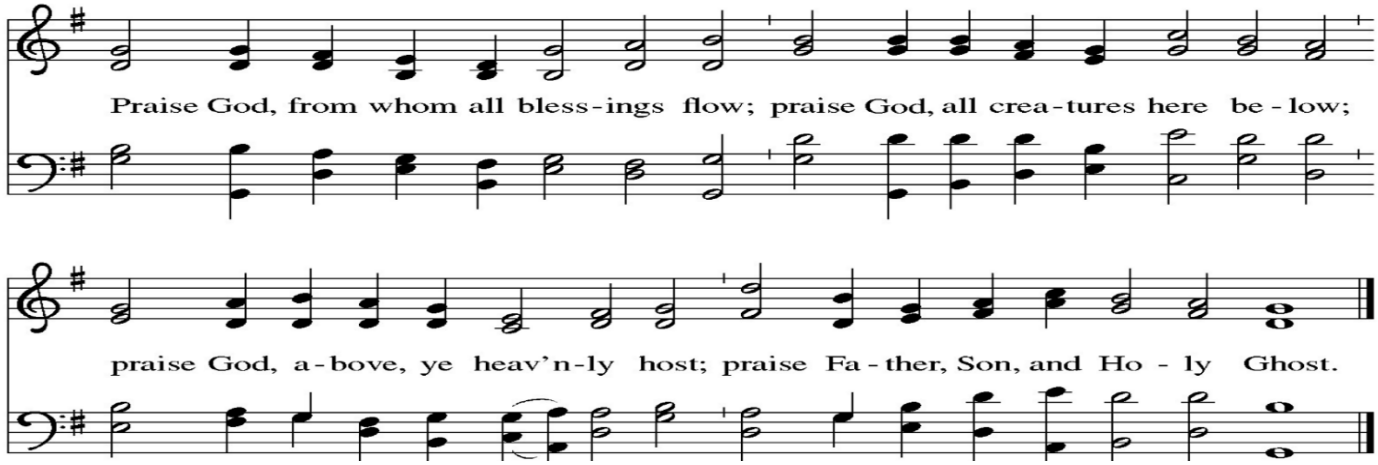
SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: My Life Flows On in Endless Song Robert Lowry, ELW 763
Doxology ELW 885 (please stand as offering is brought forward)



OFFERING PRAYER:

A: 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, 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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

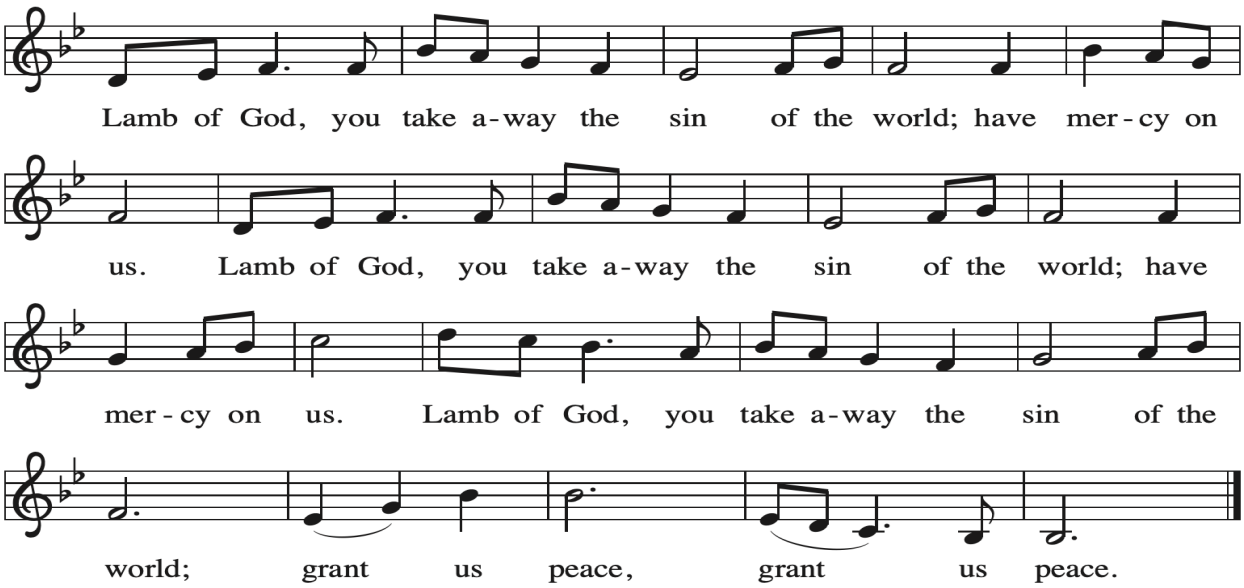
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen

LAMB OF GOD: ACS SETTING 12



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC: Lord God of Abraham Felix Mendelssohn

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world***.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

RINGING OF THE BELL

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264 V1 V2 and V4



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

A: We are called by Christ

C: **to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.**

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: All Saints Day Carrie Newcomer

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA