ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335
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248-474-0584

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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.

November 15, 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
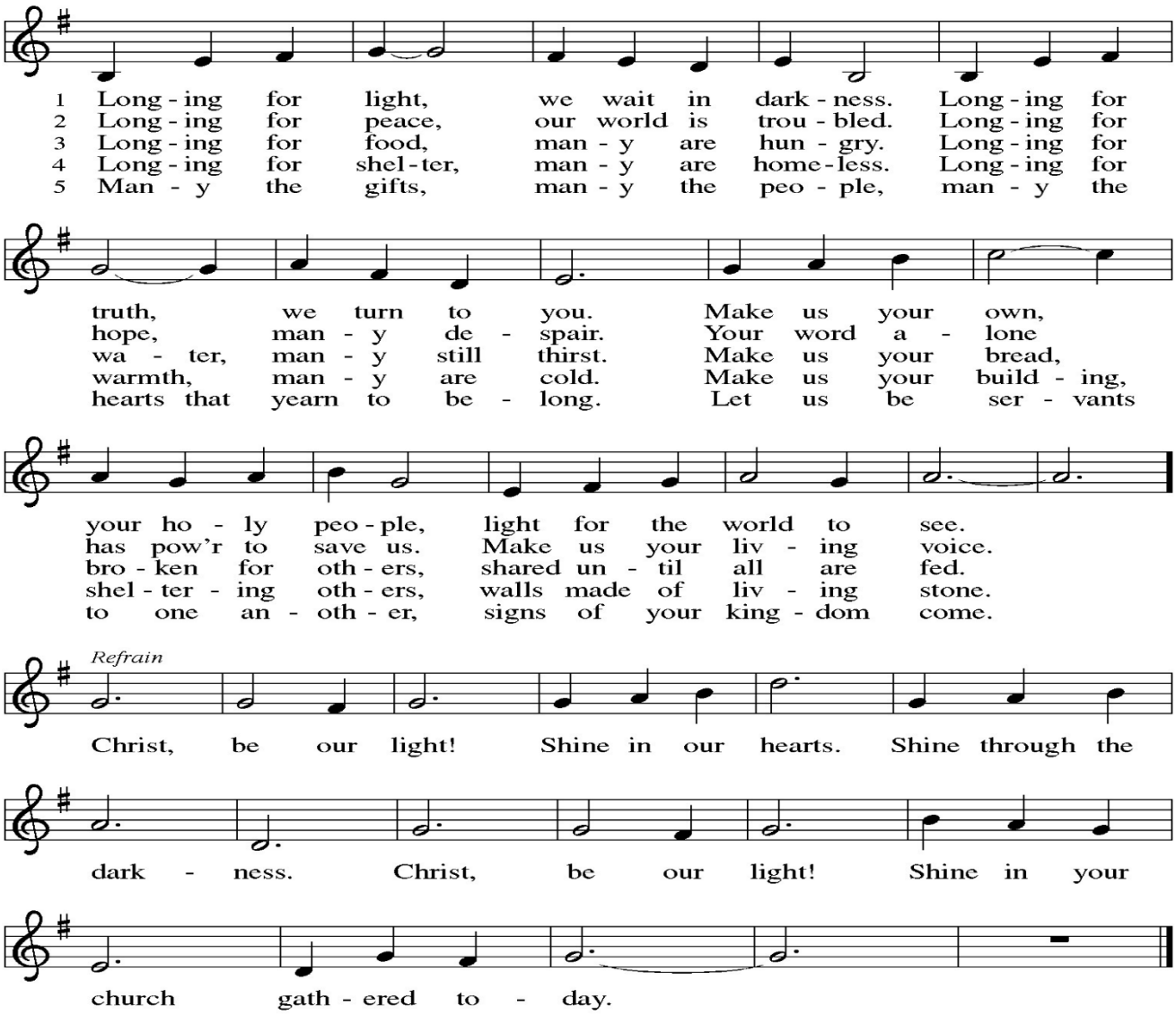
Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: As We Gather at Your Table Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN: Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715 V1 V2 and V5



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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.
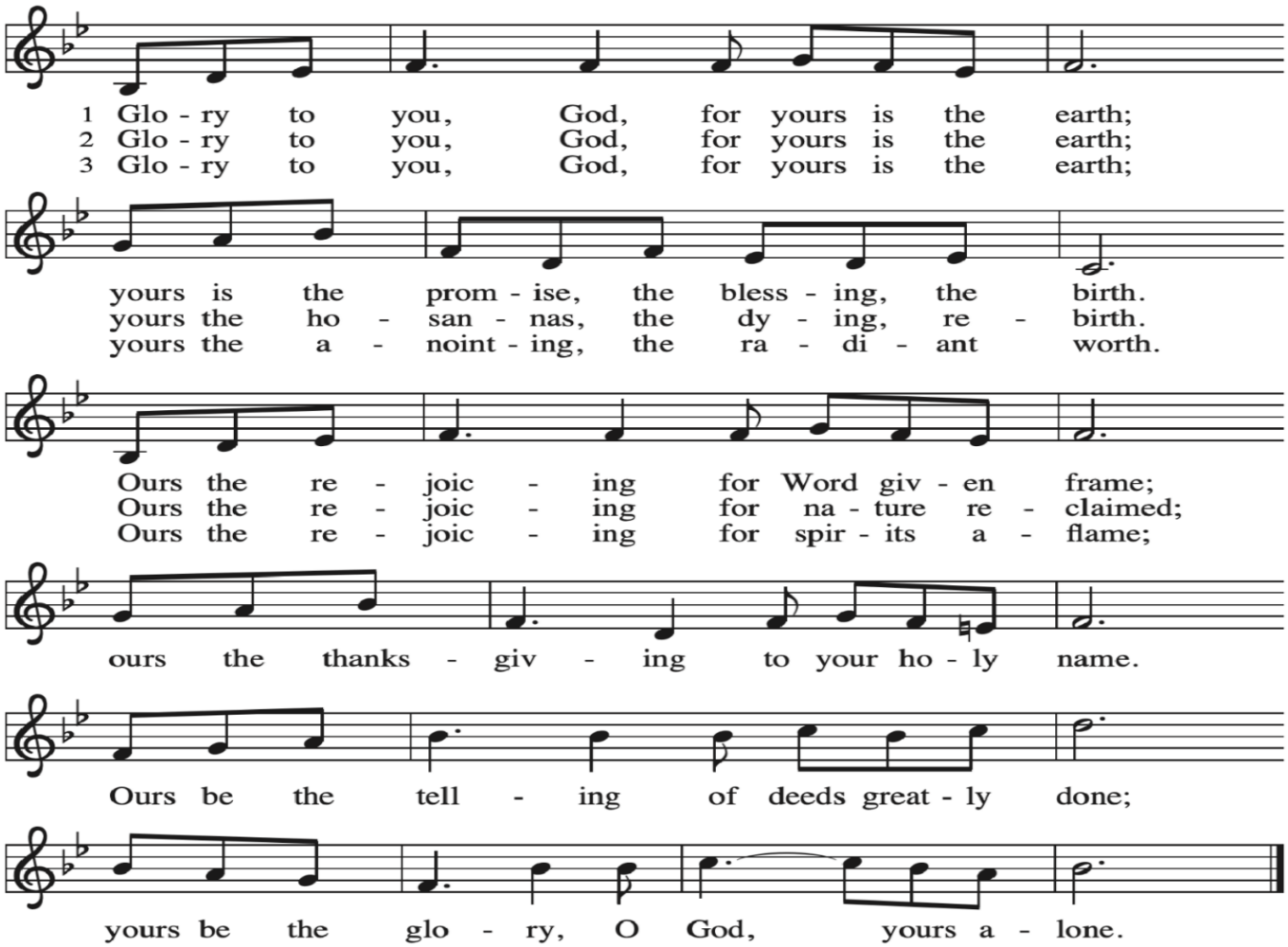
P: Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others.**

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… 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

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.

A:[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.

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

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12

A: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

C: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.

A: You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O child- l ren of earth."

C: **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;

A: you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

C: **in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

A: For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

C: **Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light**
of your countenance.

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

C: **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.**

A: Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?

C: **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
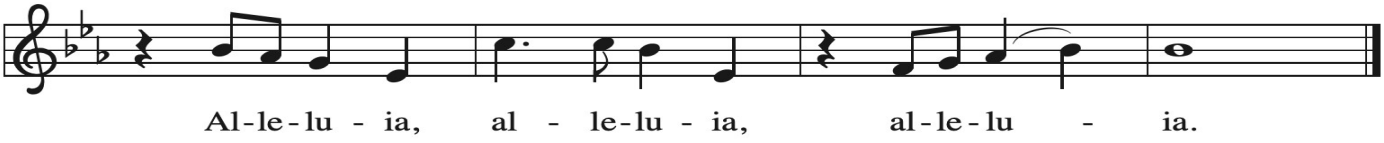
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: [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.

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 25:14-30

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

C: **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.
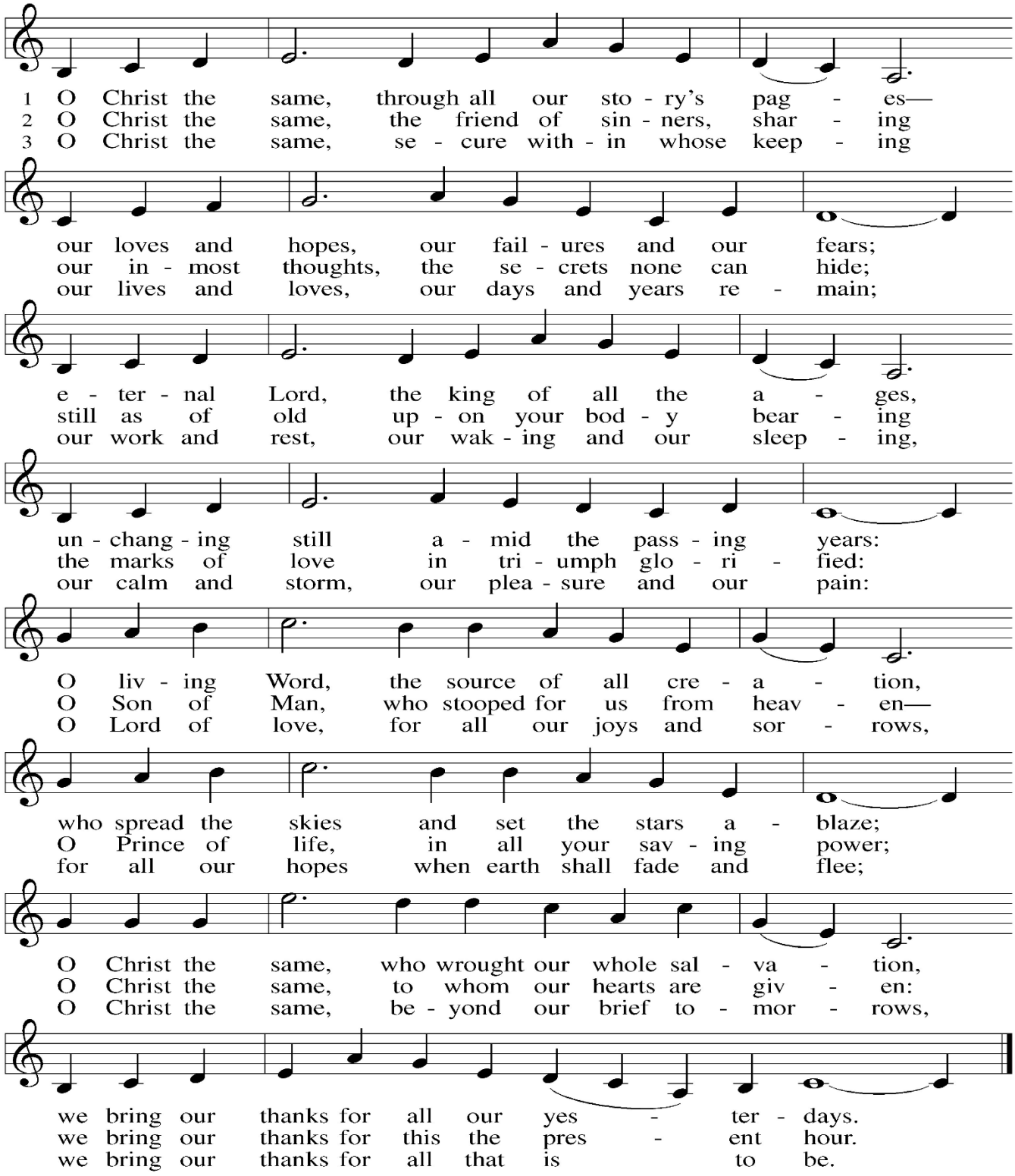
P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received
the five talents 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.' "

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

Please be seated.

SERMON: "What Is Your Assignment?" Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Christ the Same WOV 778



Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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CONFESSION OF FAITH: A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified
and risen,our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ST JOHN CHOIR ANTHEM: In the Quiet L. Lawton, arr. J. Drummond

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: *You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations.* Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (especially). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. 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: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (other specific leaders or groups may be named). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. 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

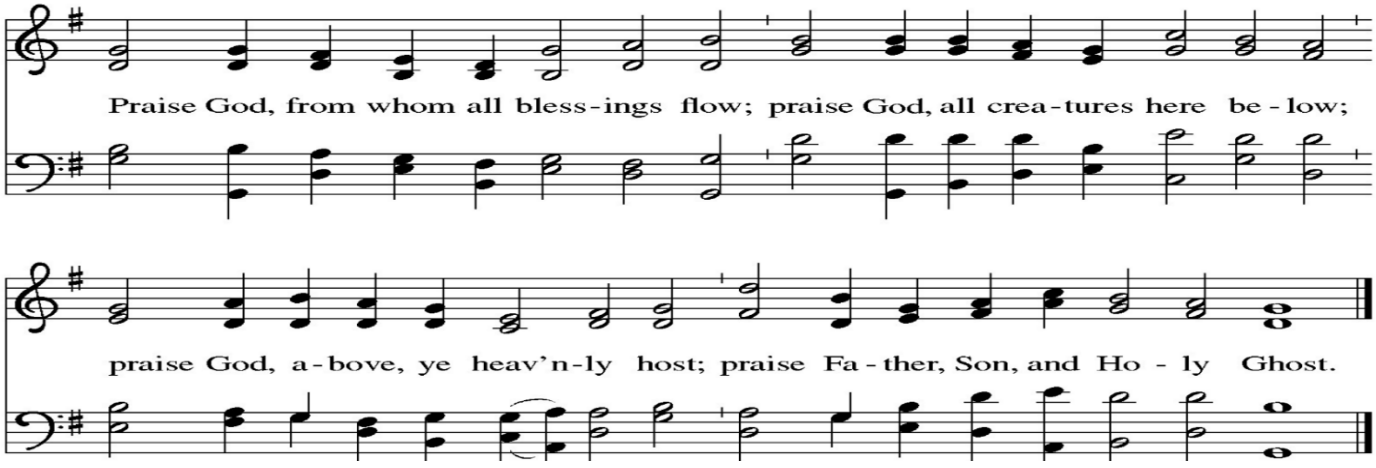
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Our God is Here Chris Muglia

Doxology ELW 885 (please stand as offering is brought forward)



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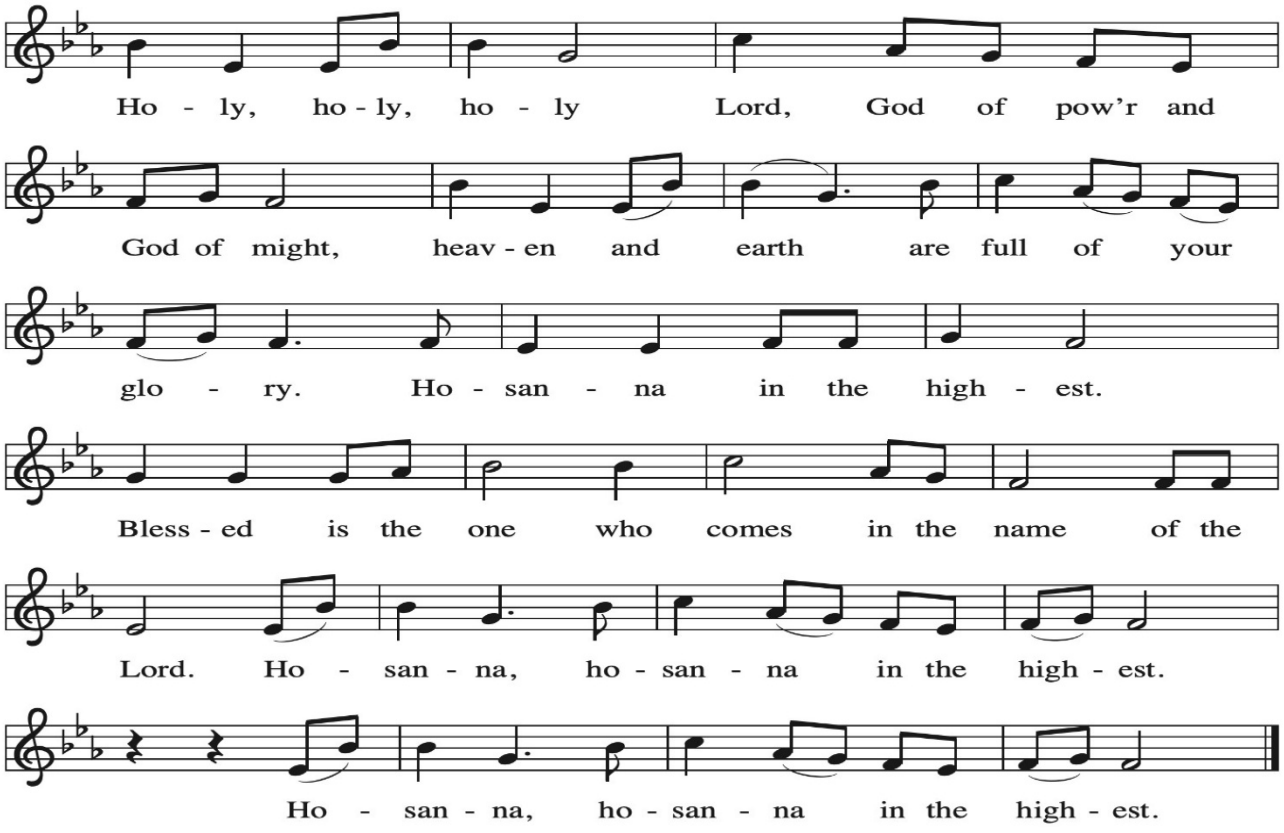
A: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ACS SETTING 12



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

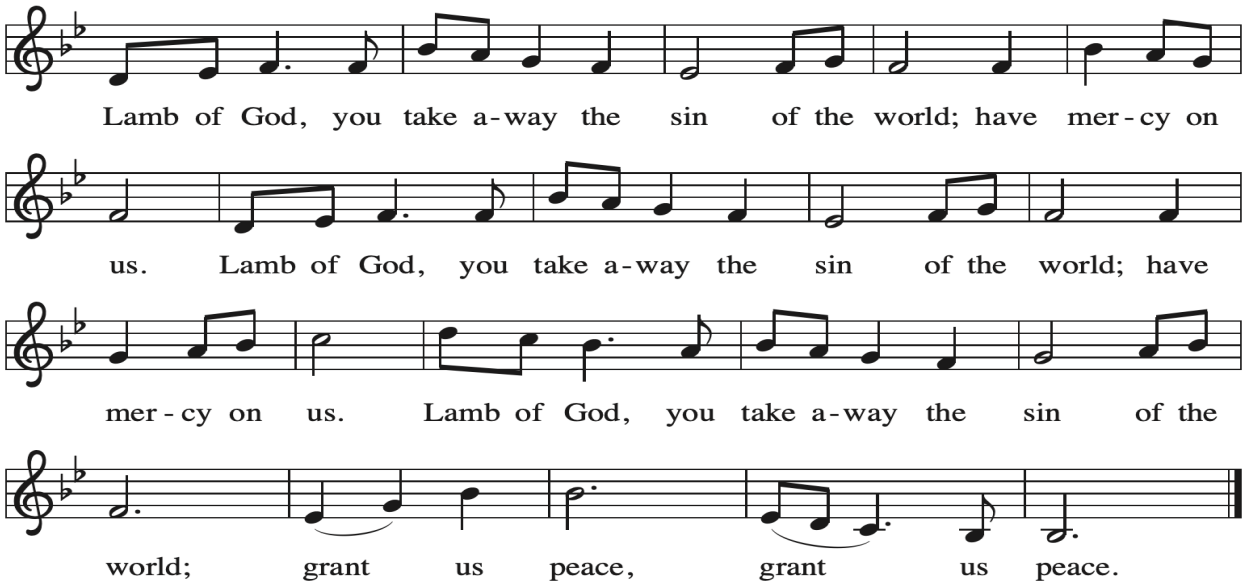
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

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

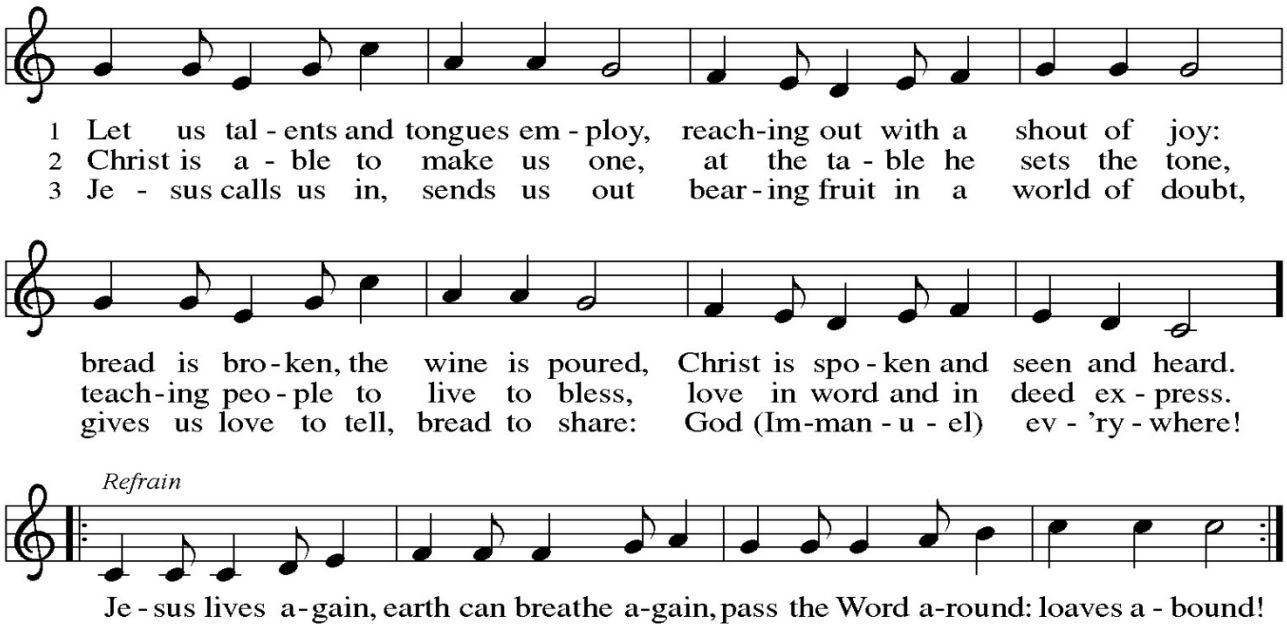
P: May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation
of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,
hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make
a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: Let us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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: Table of Plenty Dan Schutte

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