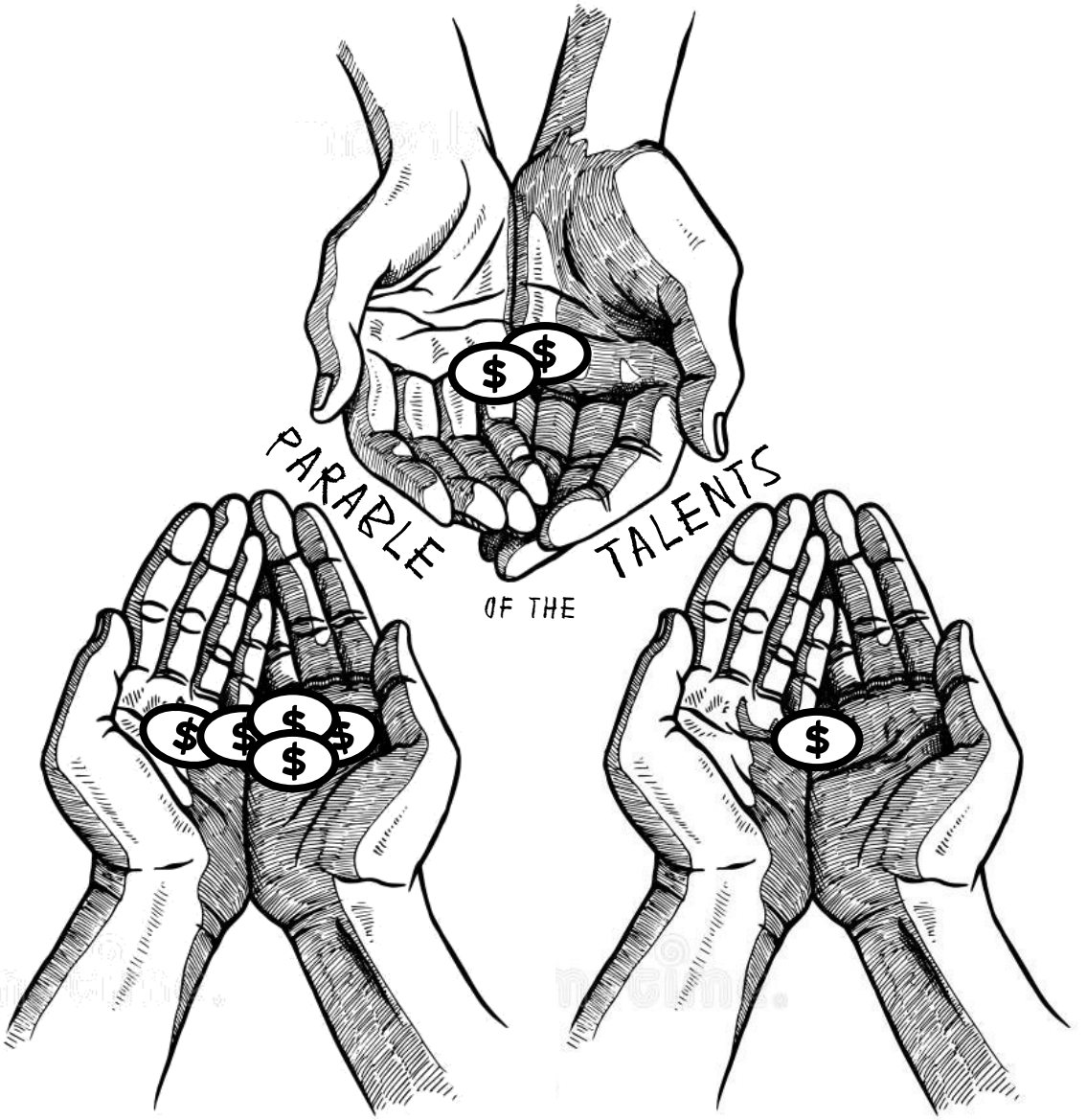


Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"Waiting Faithfully"

Rev. James L. Mayland

7:30am & 9am Sunday, November 15, 2026 in the Sanctuary

Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Wausau, Wisconsin

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"Waiting Faithfully"

Rev. James L. Mayland

7:30am & 9am Sunday, November 15, 2026

AS WE GATHER The prophet Zephaniah calls for silence as the day of the Lord draws near. The Lord has prepared the sacrifice and invited His guests to witness what happens next (Zephaniah 1:7). The people believe that the Lord is apathetic and indifferent (v. 12), which has given them license to do as they please. The day is coming when the people will realize how wrong they are. Paul has a similar warning for the Thessalonians and anyone who believes that everything is fine just the way it is, especially those who act in the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4). Finally, Jesus describes the day of the Lord with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). In the end, the Lord will reveal the ways we have misjudged His character. Until then, He points us to the place where His most crucial character trait is revealed. It is the sacrifice of the only One worthy of hearing those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," so that you might be invited to enter into the joy of your Master.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Three Meditations on "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord" *Hobby, Burkhardt, Blersch*

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

SPECIAL MUSIC *(9am)* **"My Lighthouse"** *Rend Collective; Sunday School Choir*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole**

heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
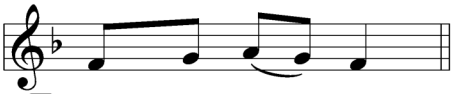
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**
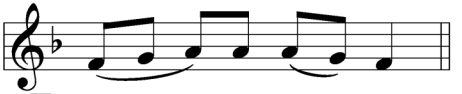
KYRIE

LSB 152
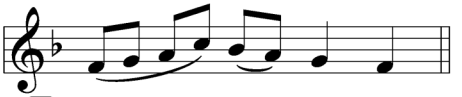
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
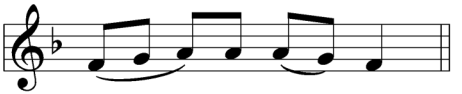


A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
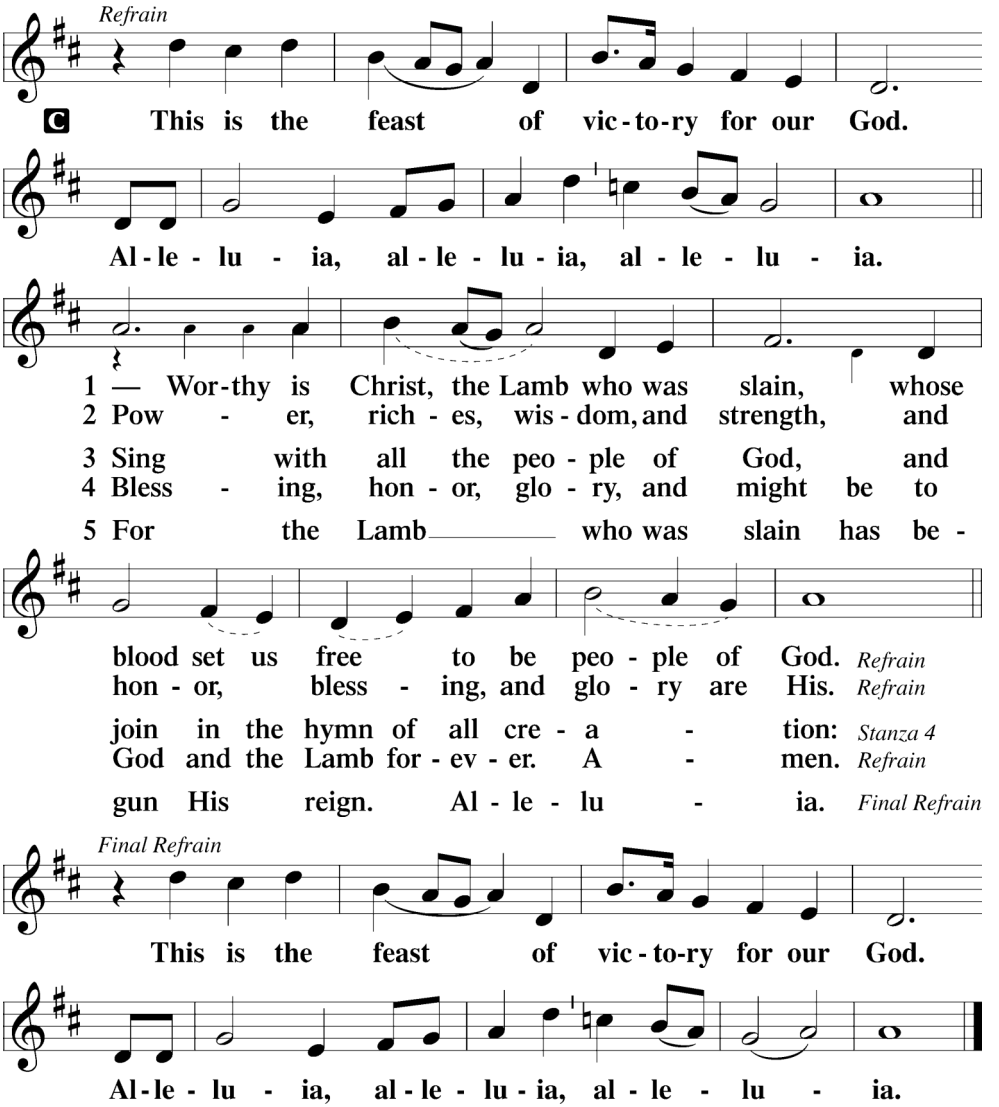


A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of

darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. [8]And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. [9]On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. [10]"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. [11]Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. [12]At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' [13]Their goods 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 mighty man cries aloud there. [15]A day of wrath is that day, 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

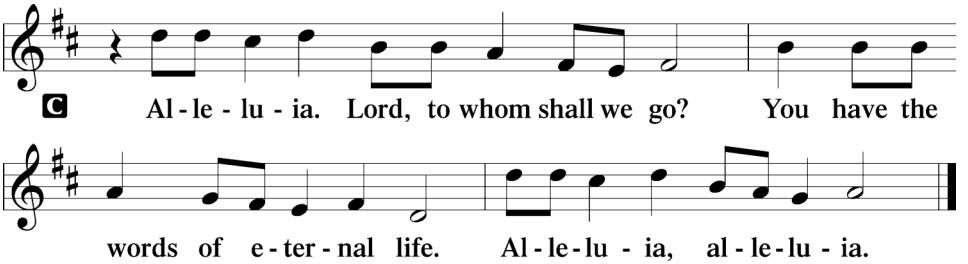
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness,

brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And he also who had the two talents came

forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

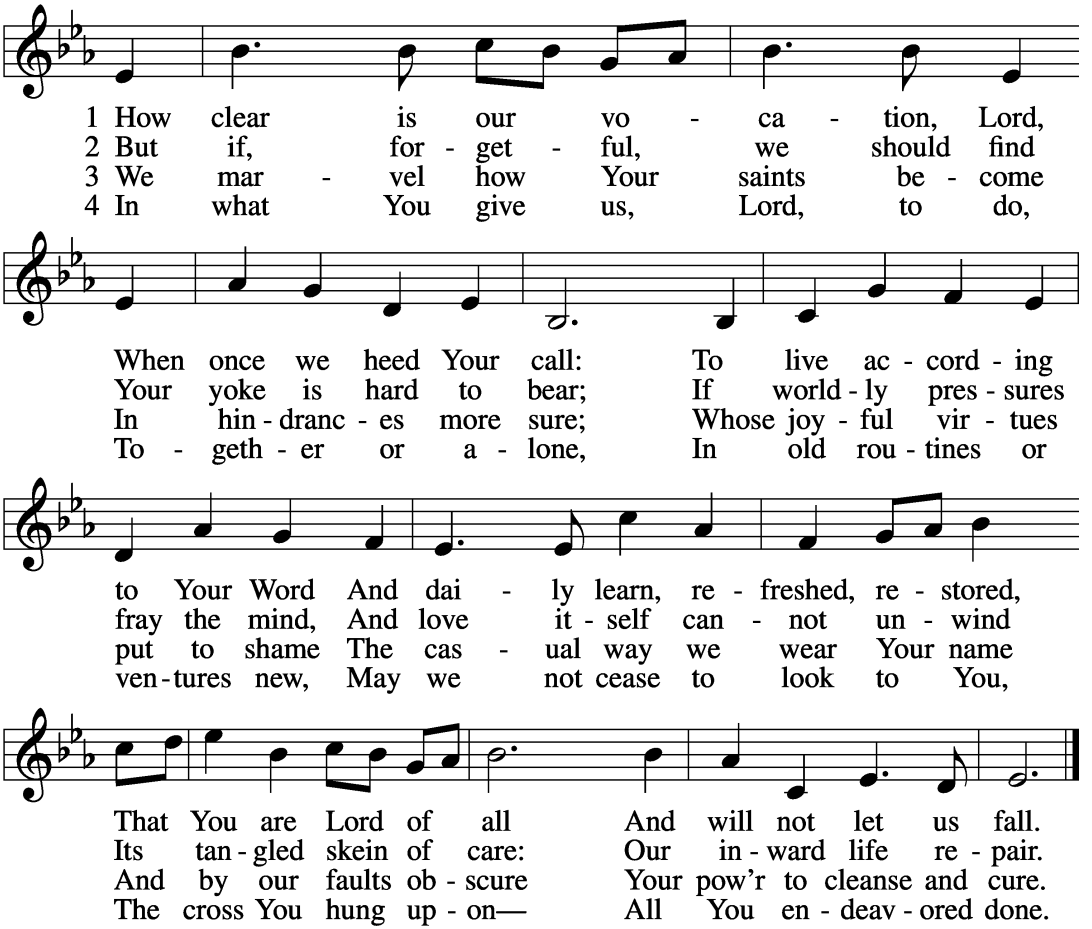
C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF THE DAY "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" *LSB 853*



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005874 Tune: Public domain

SERMON **"Waiting Faithfully"** *Rev. James L. Mayland*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(After each petition, the following is said…)*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING **"Walk By Faith"** *Ramsey; Sanctuary Choir*

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

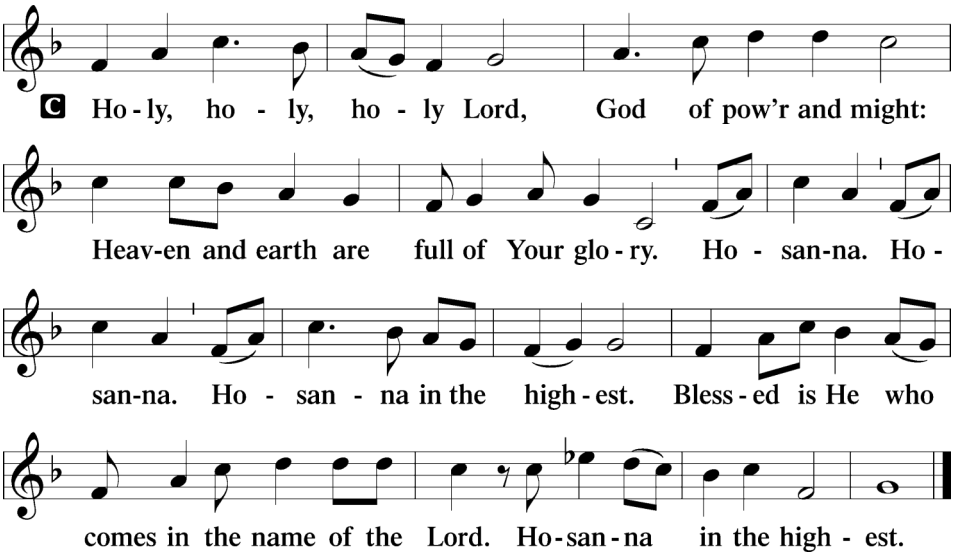
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

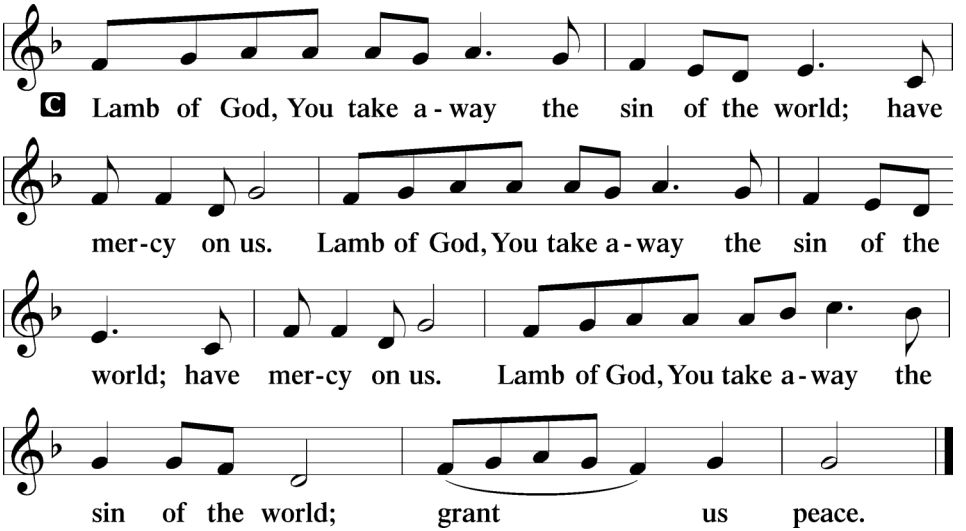
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord's Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior's body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.

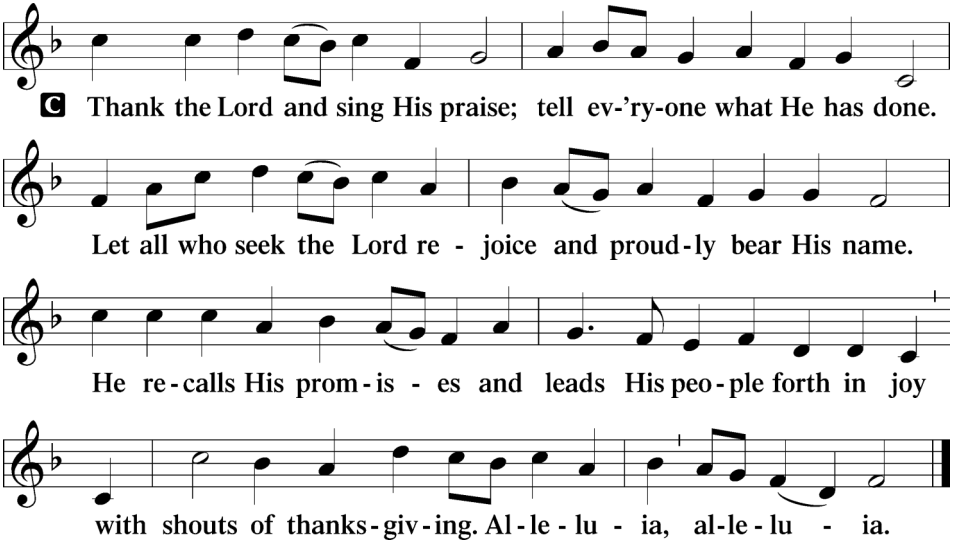
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *LSB 733*

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *LSB 411*

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Thank the Lord"



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

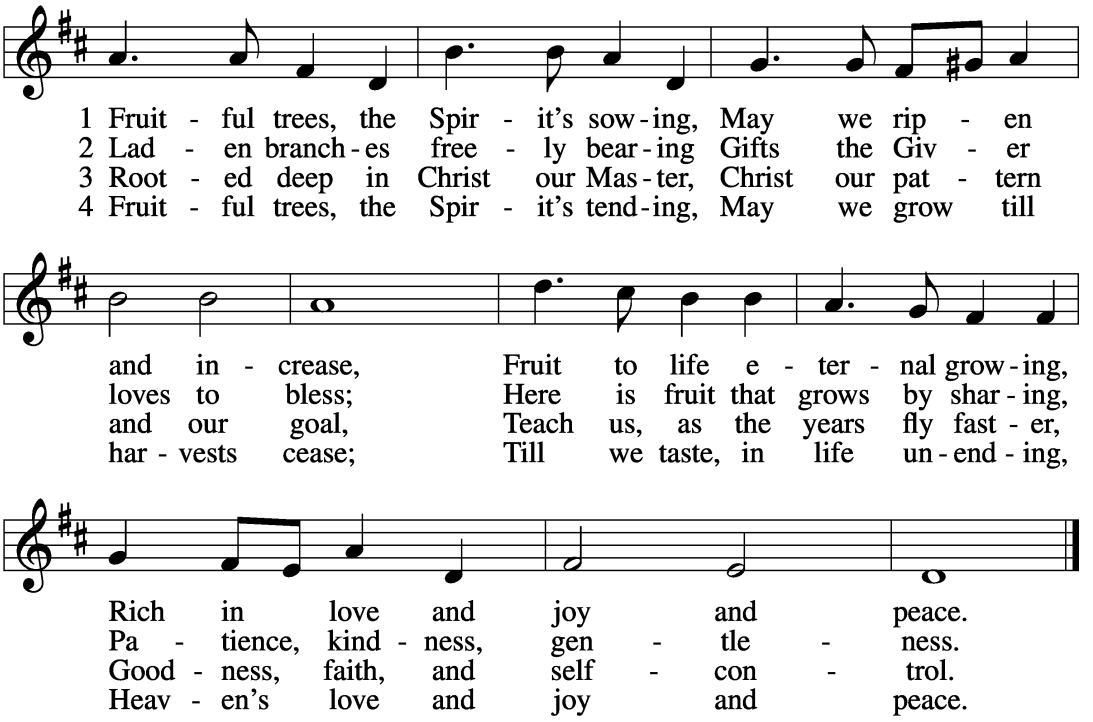
BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" *LSB 691*



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE **Fantasia on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** *Behnke*

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*
LITURGIST: *Rev. Peter C. Williamson, Associate Pastor*
ORGANIST: *Irene Beethe*
MUSICIANS: *Sanctuary Choir, Kyle Wiskow, director;*
Sunday School Choir (Kimberly Schwantes, Sunday School Coordinator),
Carla Schwantes, piano; Brett Schwantes, guitar
ELDERS: *7:30am—Bob Zimmerman, Ted Gruhn; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Mike Hase*
ACOLYTES: *9am—Claire Dietsche, Kiera Koback*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—
7:30am & 9am Sunday
CONTEMPORARY/MODERN WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—
5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

GUIDING STATEMENT:

As an enduring family of disciples, we teach, love and connect through multi-generational education and service.



TEACH—LOVE—CONNECT—SERVE—GROW
Teach the Truth—Love like Jesus
Connect with Compassion
Serve with Purpose—Lifelong Growth

Automated Giving Options

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