

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 am and Livestream



Icon 1, Lectionary 33a, Sundays and Seasons

FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1515 Emmorton Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-8081

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

In our Lutheran Tradition, liturgy reminds us that we are one in Christ, hence we do it together! Therefore, words in bold and designated by a "C" are the responses from the community.

Message from Pastor Alejandro

Dear beloved,

I want to commend you for your hard and faithful work in preparation for and at our congregational meeting. It was a fruitful one with important decisions made to further God's work for the sake of this congregation and the world that God so much loves.

Our budget is a statement of our commitment to the mission we share in Jesus Christ, grounded in the hope that God will never forsake us and will always provide. An updated constitution will grant us the opportunity to be in harmony with our siblings of our church across the country as we experience God's grace and love.

Moving forward as a Reconciling in Christ congregation means that we are committed to be a community that strives for justice and inclusion for all, and especially for those who are marginalized and excluded by other Christian communities because of who they are.

As we also face unexpected events in the life of our congregation, let us have the assurance that God has something in store for us. Friends, a new journey has just begun and we trust God through the Spirit will continue walking with us by leading the way.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that though we might think differently or come from various backgrounds, we are still one body in Christ. Therefore, I invite us all to continue regarding that sense of oneness as our common and main call. Being united as Christ's church, doesn't mean we agree on everything, but rather, we are still able to be community, loving, caring, and respecting one another, the way Jesus has taught us. This is what makes us unique in the midst of the world.

We are in this together for the sake of the proclamation of Jesus' gospel for the sake of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, the city of Bel Air, Harford County, and all the world.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Rev. Alejandro Mejia
Interim Lead Pastor

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy One,*

C **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P *Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.*

C **Amen.**



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the night-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis-played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!


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.**

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb


 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

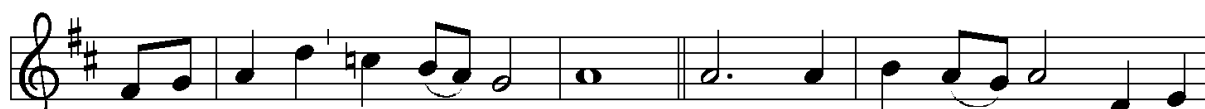
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

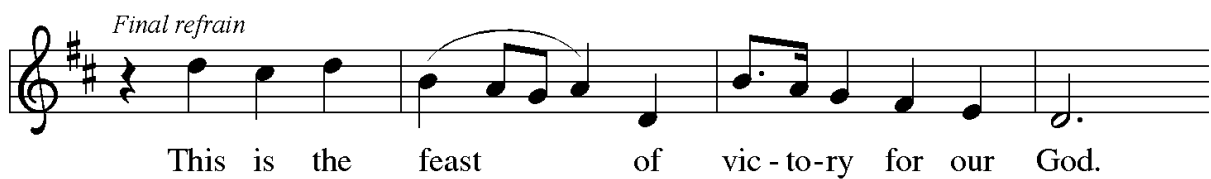
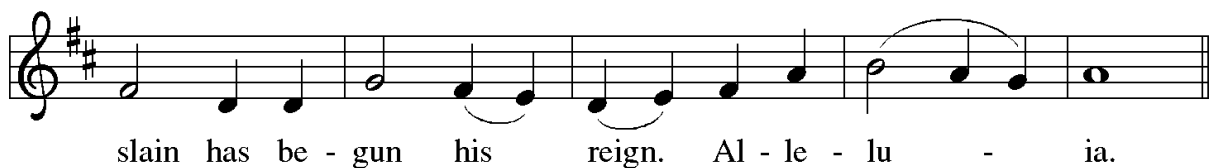

 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of


 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master,*

C **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.**

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A *A reading from the prophet Zephaniah. ⁷Be 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.*

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸Neither 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.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 90:1-8,12

Read Responsively

- A** *¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.*
- C** **²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had
formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- A** *³You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."*
- C** **⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is
past, or like a watch in the night.**
- A** *⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;*
- C** **⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**
- A** *⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.*
- C** **⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
¹²So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

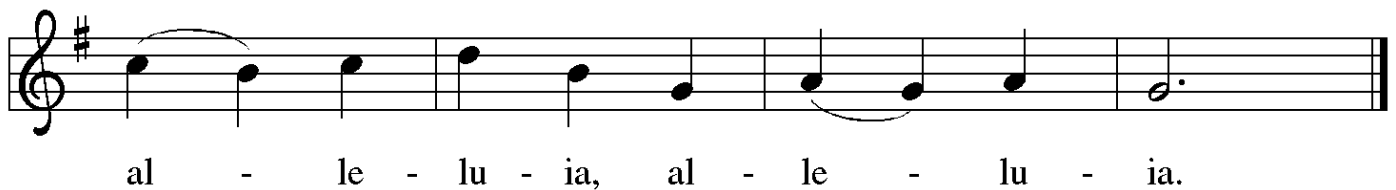
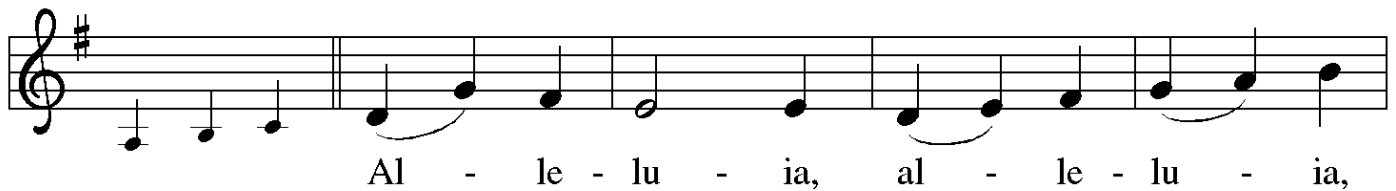
- A** *A reading from first Thessalonians. ¹Now concerning the times and
the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything
written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is
peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them,
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no*

escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A *The Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.



Repeat alleluia



P *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the Twenty-fifth chapter.*
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.’ ²¹His 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.’ ²²And 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.’ ²³His 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.’ ²⁴Then 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 seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one

with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As 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

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía

Please stand as you are able.



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

Please be seated.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.*
C **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 into hell. 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.

A *Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*
C **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

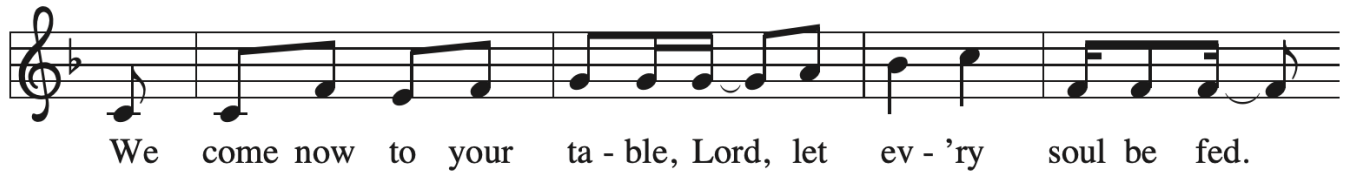
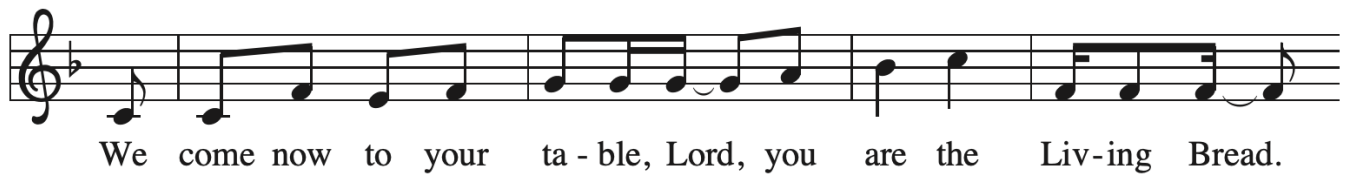
P *We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.*
C **Amen.**

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

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering and Offertory

Please stand, as you are able.



- A** *Let us pray. God of all goodness,*
C **generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in B-flat major (one flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. Each staff contains two measures of music, with a double bar line separating them. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the syllables.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



²
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

P *God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.*

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

P *In the night in which he was betrayed...*

Again, after supper...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P *Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.*

C **Amen.**

P *Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.*

C **Amen.**

P *Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.*

C **Amen**

P *Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:*

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.

P *There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice. Just let the Pastor or Assistants know.)

If you require communion to be brought to you in the pew, please alert an usher.

During the distribution of communion, the following is sung:



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Gather Us In

No. 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

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

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. Lord Jesus,*

C **in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

No. 851



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
 2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
 5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
 men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
 e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
 joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 moved us to a more pro - found
 to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing, for whom he won the fight:
 give us faith to sing al - ways:

A *Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by

Scott and Leslie Bupp in honor of their daughter-in-law Ashley's Birthday

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Ray, Darius, Lynn, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty,
Doris, Theresa, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Marge, Nicholas, Lois,
Barbara & Bruce*

Announcements

Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Social is at 6:45 on Wednesday, November 22nd. Bring a pie to share after worship if you are able.

Bring the family and come *Deck the Halls* on December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Enjoy coffee, cocoa, and donuts as we ready the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Christmas Season.

Christmas Basket project is in full swing. Gifts and food baskets are being provided for 75 families provided to us by Mason Dixon Community Services. Tags are available for you to choose from the display in the Narthex.

Volunteers for Coffee Social Hosts and Altar Guild are urgently needed.

Remember, we are church *together!* 😊

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SERVING TODAY

Greeters

8:30 a.m.

Assisting Minister

Daneene Lucas

Communion Assistants

Tricia Horst
Al Horst

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Acolytes

11:00 a.m.

Marilyn Tober

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Janet DeVinney

Stacey Cremen
Geoff DeVinney