

The Lutheran Church of Saint Mark

75 Griswold Street Glastonbury, CT 06033 860-633-1188

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sancta Caecilia

Franz Liszt

(In honor of St. Cecilia's day, Nov. 19. She is the patron saint of church musicians.)

Fiat cor meum immaculatum,
Ut non confundar.

Translated as:

Let my heart be unblemished
So that I may not be put to shame.



We gather in the name of the Father and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*CONFESSION

BASED ON ACTS 2:42-46

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

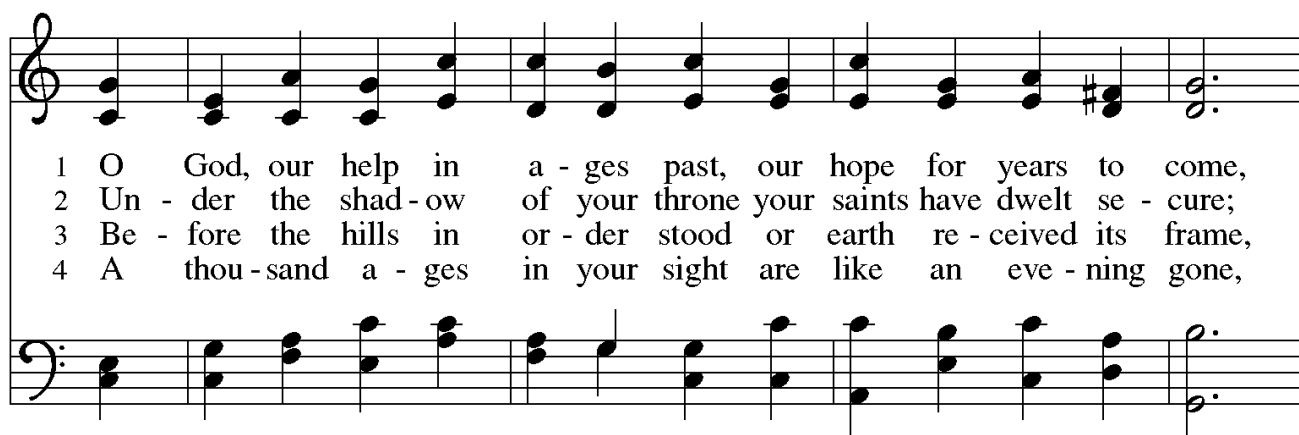
Gracious God, forgive us when our awe turns to contempt. Forgive us when we no longer take the time to notice your wonders and signs. Forgive us when we hold too tightly onto our possessions while others are still in need. Forgive us when we seek to praise ourselves instead of offering our praise to you. Have mercy on us and renew us, that we may more faithfully live and serve you, our neighbor, and each other, through Christ our Lord. Amen

God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even in our sinfulness. By grace, and grace alone, you are saved and forgiven of all you sin, in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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**

WORD

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 reading from 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.

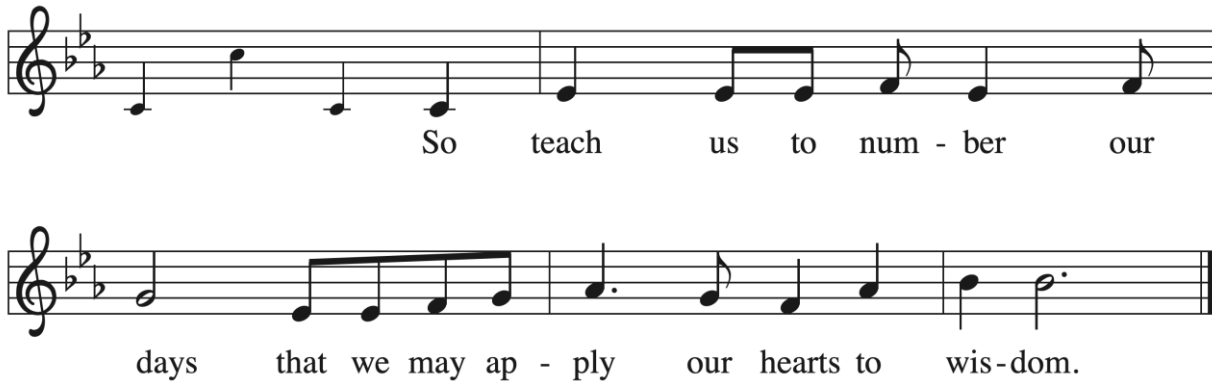
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

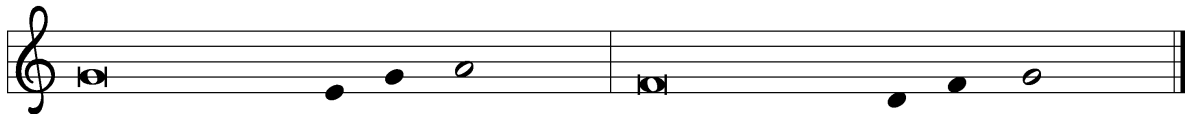
90:1-8, 12

The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

REFRAIN



TONE



¹Lord, you have ¹been our refuge
from one generation ¹to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**

³You turn us back to the ¹dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- ¹ren of earth.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night; R**

⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed¹ by your anger;
we are afraid because¹ of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

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 reading from 1 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.

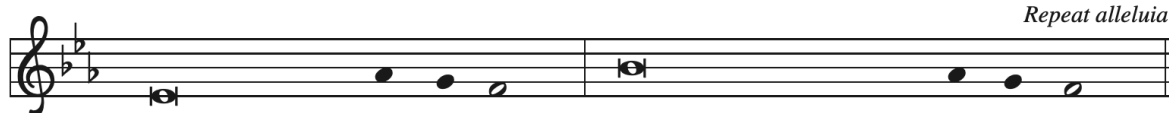
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sing alleluia, sing verse, sing alleluia.



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 25:14-30

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

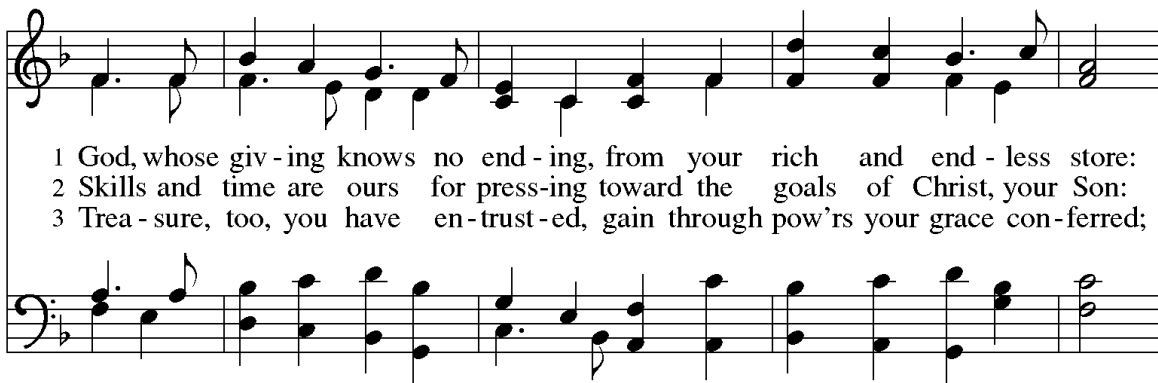
[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off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

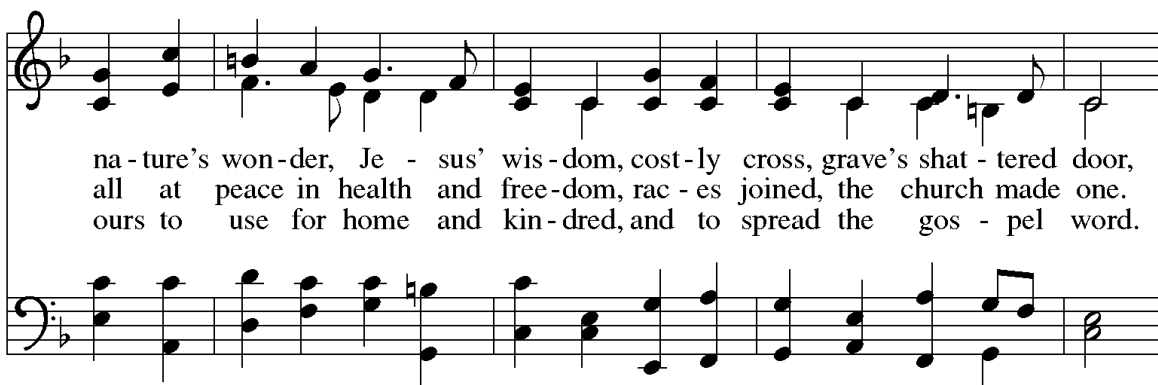
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

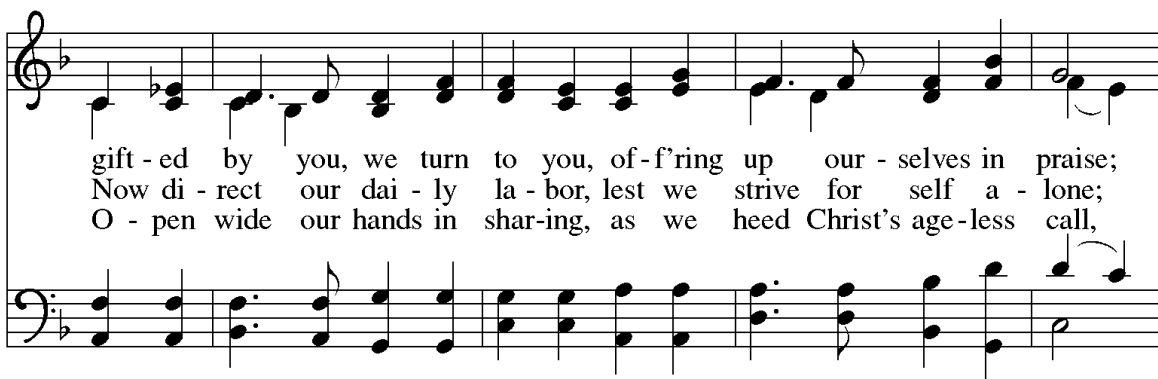




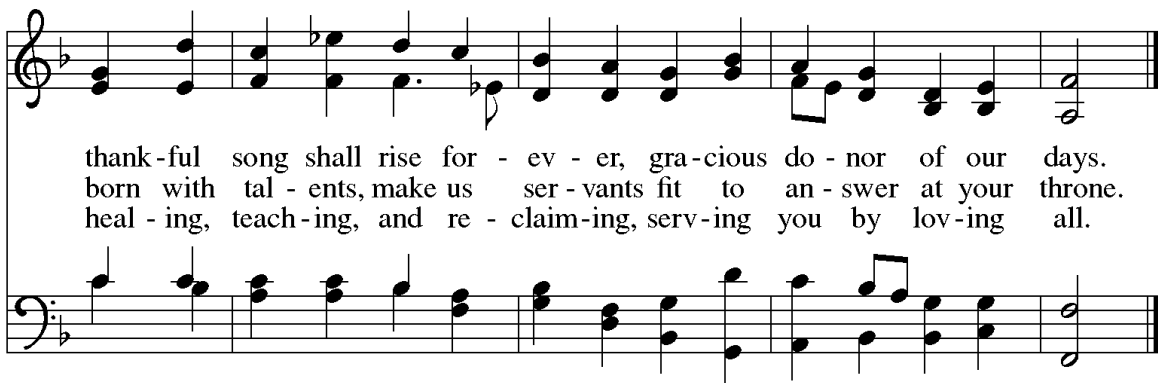
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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*APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess what we believe:

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 THE PEOPLE

*The assisting minister prays the petition., The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Holy is Our God

Robin Mark

*SUNG OFFERTORY

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

♩ = 60

CHORUS 1

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an

of - fer - ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

BRIDGE

lives, they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You. We lift our

CHORUS 2

voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, we are an

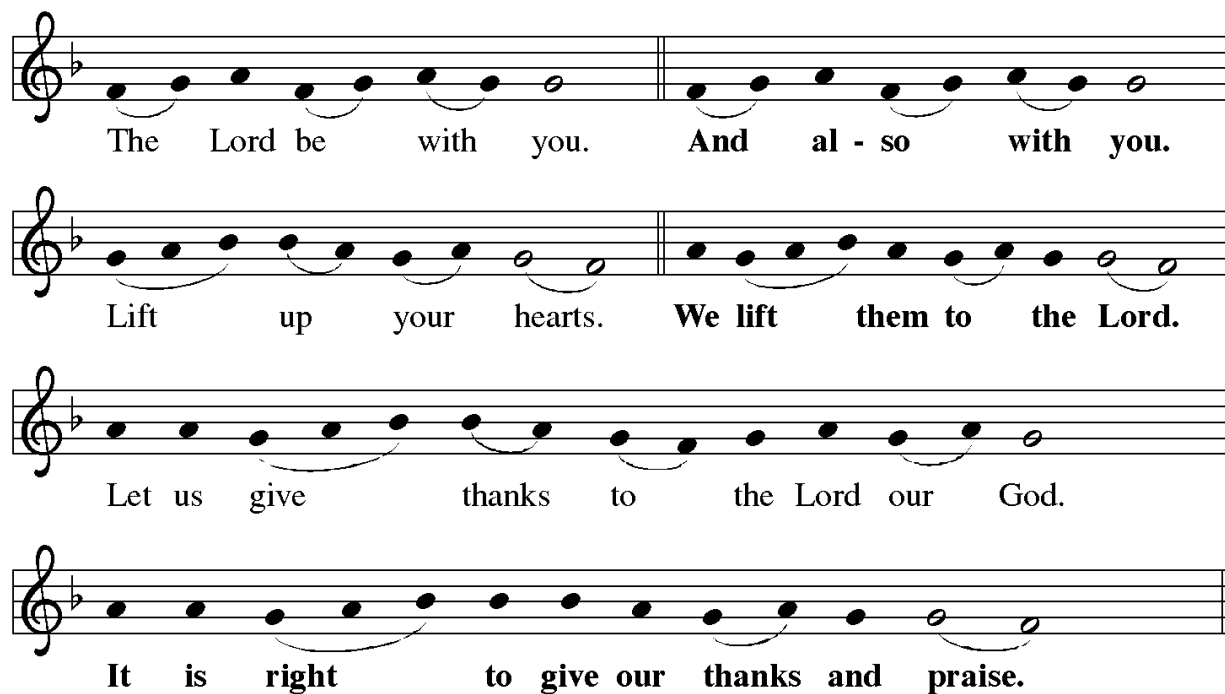
of - fer - ing. We lift our of - fer - ing.

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all goodness, **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**

*PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

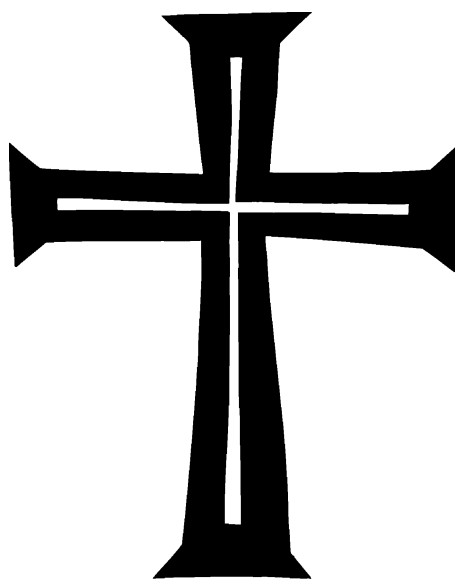
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:



*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We praise and thank you, ... the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy Father, ... now and forever.

Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

*COMMUNION INVITATION

This is the banquet of the Lord. Come for all things are ready.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Mighty to Save

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Words and Music by
Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding

1. Ev 'ry - one needs com - pas - sion, love that's nev - er fail -
2. So take me as You find me, all my fears and fail -

ing. Let mer - cy fall on me. Ev - 'ry - one needs for - give -
ures. Fill my life a - gain. I give my life to fol -

ness, the kind - ness of a Sav - iour. The hope of na - tions.
low, ev - 'ry - thing I be - lieve in. Now I sur - ren - der.

Sav - iour, He can move the moun - tains. My God is might - y to save. He is
might - y to save. For - ev - er, Au - thor of sal - va - tion. He rose and
con - quered the grave. Je - sus con - quered the grave.

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're sing - ing
for the glo - ry of the ris - en King. Je - sus. Shine your light, and let the whole world
see. We're sing - ing for the glo - ry of the ris - en King. Sav - iour, He can move the
moun - tains. My God is might - y to save. He is might - y to save. For - ev - er, Au - thor of Sal -
va - tion. He rose and con - quered the grave. Je - sus con - quered the grave.

Fine
D.S. al Fine

PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

For those on zoom or not receiving the sacrament.

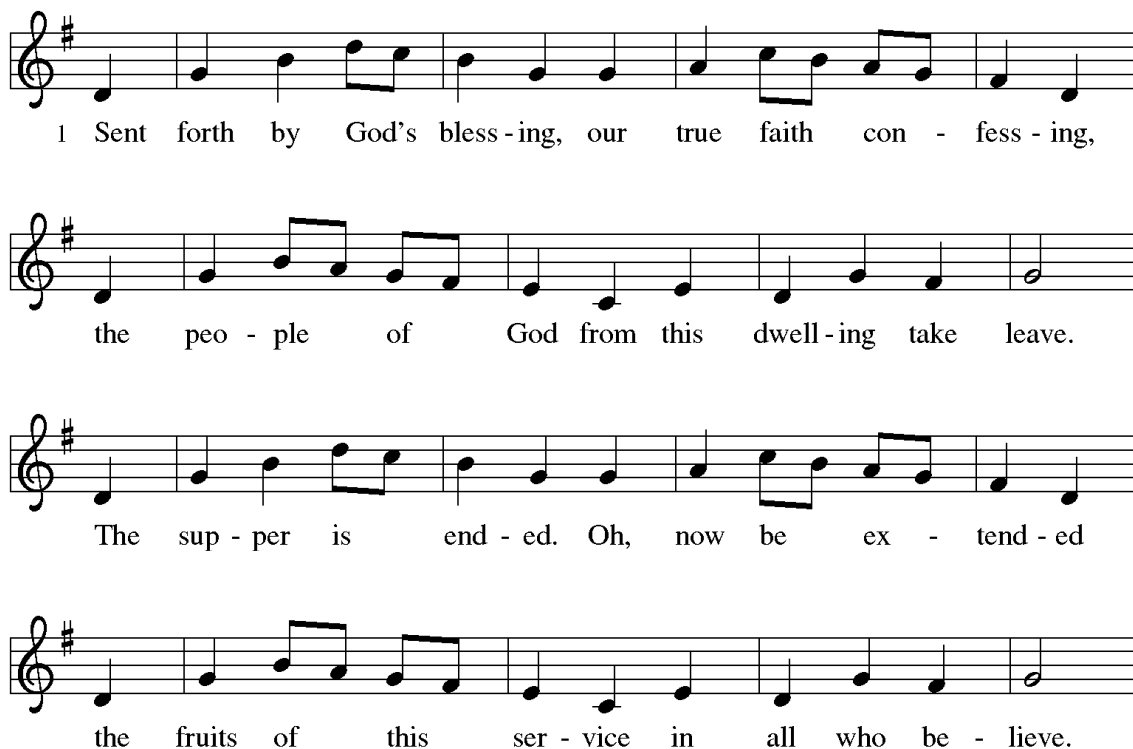
Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

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

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.

The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re - cep - tive souls

reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, **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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

The Lord be with you; the ones you love; and the ones you do not love yet. And Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gratitude. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfried Karg-Elert

<p>Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Leslie O'Rourke in celebration of Leo's 2nd birthday.</p>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **There is NO bible study this evening. Bible Study will return next Sunday, November 26.**
- **Please join Pastor Hoffman and others from the Glastonbury community for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00pm. Congregation Kol Haverim, 1079 Hebron Avenue. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank.**
- **Making Spirits Bright!!** You can help shine the light of God's love into someone's life this Advent. **On Sunday December 10th, we'll be putting together 'Christmas Joy' bags that will be for anyone coming into St. Mark for our community groups or other activities.** We've done this previously and heard stories of people being touched by just a small bag of Christmas Joy. **Please sign up on the narthex board if you can donate items for the bags, such as wrapped candy canes, Hershey kisses. etc. We're also looking to re-gift small ornaments (one per bag) rather than buying new ones. So, if you have any ornaments that you'd like to donate, then please bring them on the 10th or put them in the Christmas Joy box in the narthex. Additionally, we'll be writing Christmas cards to put in the bags.** This will be a true feel-good and let your light shine fellowship time after service, so please come and help make some spirits bright!! Contact Jan Frick for more information.
- **The deadline for the December/January issue of the Messenger is Monday, November 20.**

- **We will be going to see Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet's *Ahava: A Christmas Story* on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00pm. Tickets are \$15. Please join us and bring a friend.** Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- **Jumpstart your holiday season and join us Monday, December 4th at 7:00pm for the Women's Party & Yankee Swap at the Hilliard's house and the Men's Revels at Dave Taylor's house!** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- We strive to make these bulletins as accessible as possible by using larger font and including the hymnal music. In doing so, **we go through more copies and printer ink. Please consider making a donation to offset these costs. Envelopes are available in the narthex next to the altar flower envelopes.** Thank you.
- **The last day to order Christmas poinsettias is Sunday, December 3.**

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 19	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Amigos & Amigas
Monday, November 20		Messenger Deadline
Tuesday, November 21	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
	7:00pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Congregation Kol Haverim
Wednesday, November 22	7:00pm	Evening Prayer via Zoom
Thursday, November 23		Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, November 26	9:00am	Christ the King Sunday Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Godfellas



www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
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<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>



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