The Lutheran Church of St. Mark
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The Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost
Service of Word and Sacrament
November 15, 2026

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.

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.*
**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*
*The responses of the people are printed in **bold.***

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Let us talents and tongues employ*
Linstead David Cherwien

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

*CONFESSION

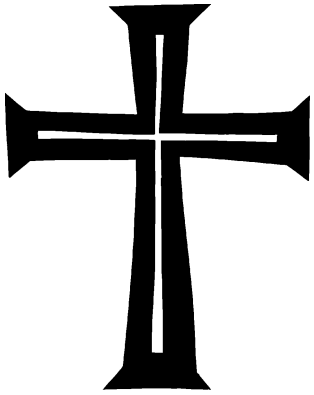
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

Please kneel or sit for the confession.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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



*GATHERING HYMN *Mine eyes have seen the glory* ELW 890



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

*Apostolic Greeting

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.**

*Canticle of Praise

This is the feast



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING — ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-8

Zephaniah 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.

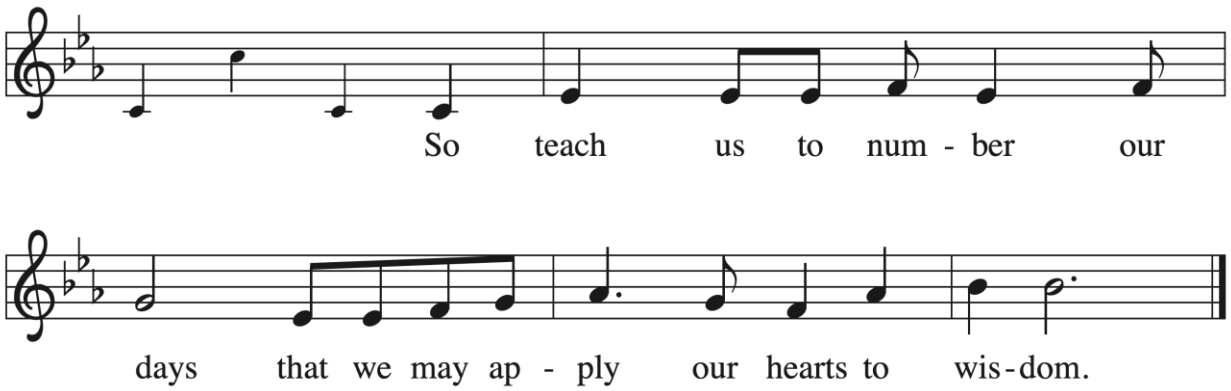
A reading from Zephaniah:

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.

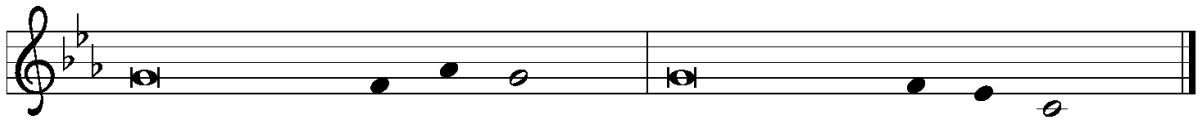
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Refrain



Tone



[1] Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R
[5] you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R
[12] **So teach us to num- | ber 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 reading from 1 Thessalonians:

[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.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*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 St. 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; 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.' "

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

HOMILY

*HYMN OF THE DAY *As saints of old* ELW 695



Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

*APOSTLES' CREED

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 *Thanks be to God*

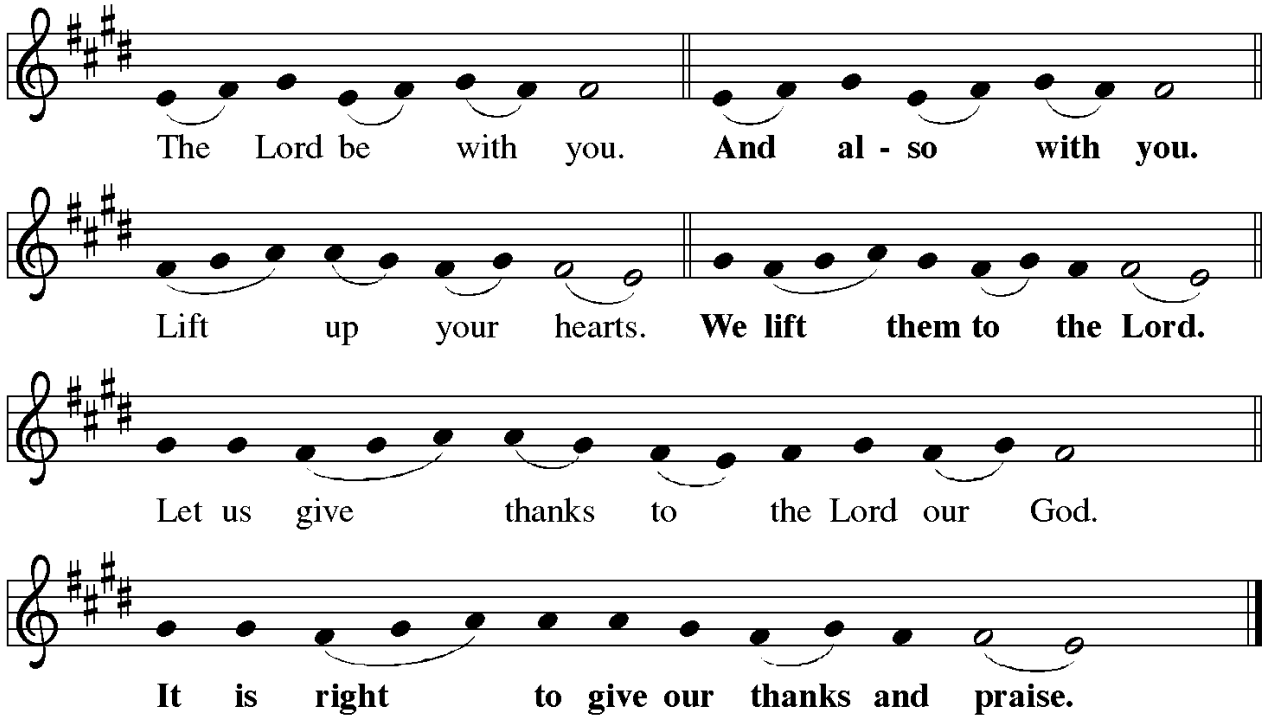
F. Pratt Green Judy Hunnicutt

(text may be found at ELW 679.)

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

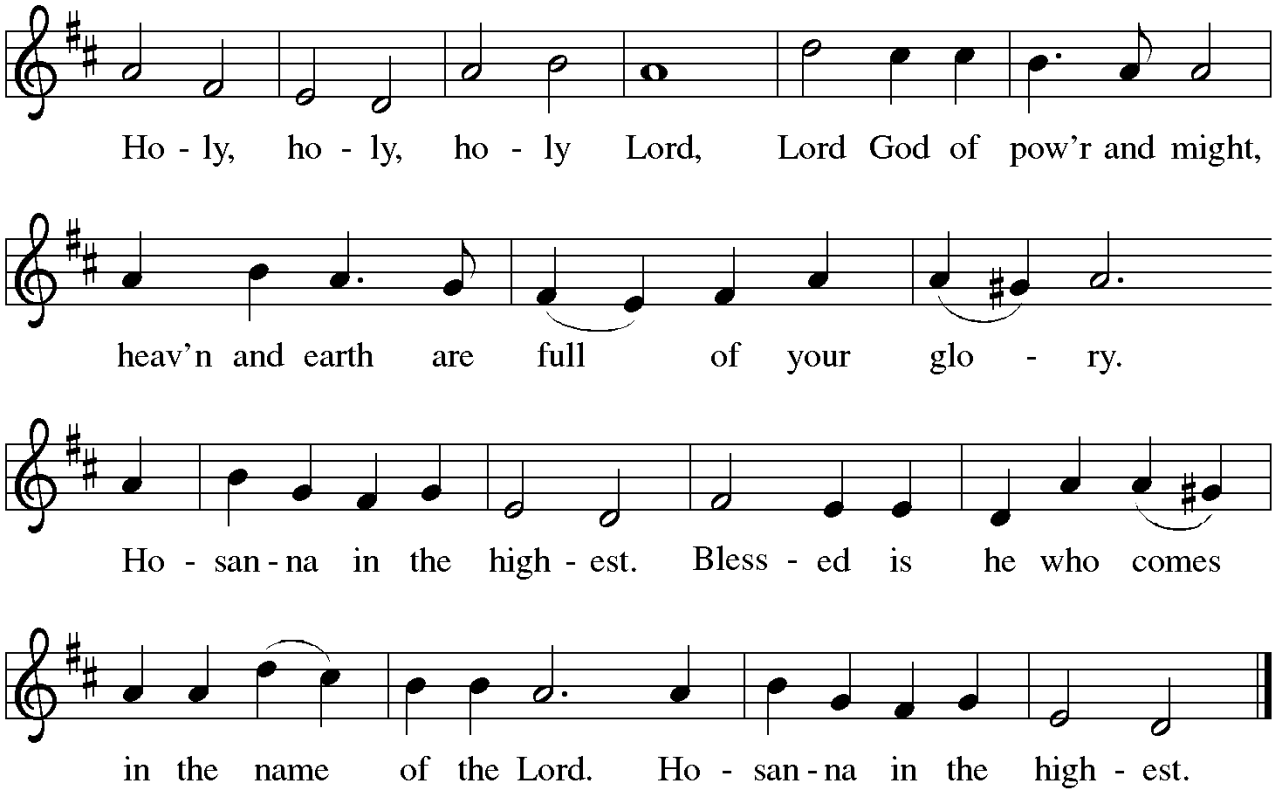
*Preface Dialogue



*Proper Preface

It is indeed … unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*Eucharistic Prayer

*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

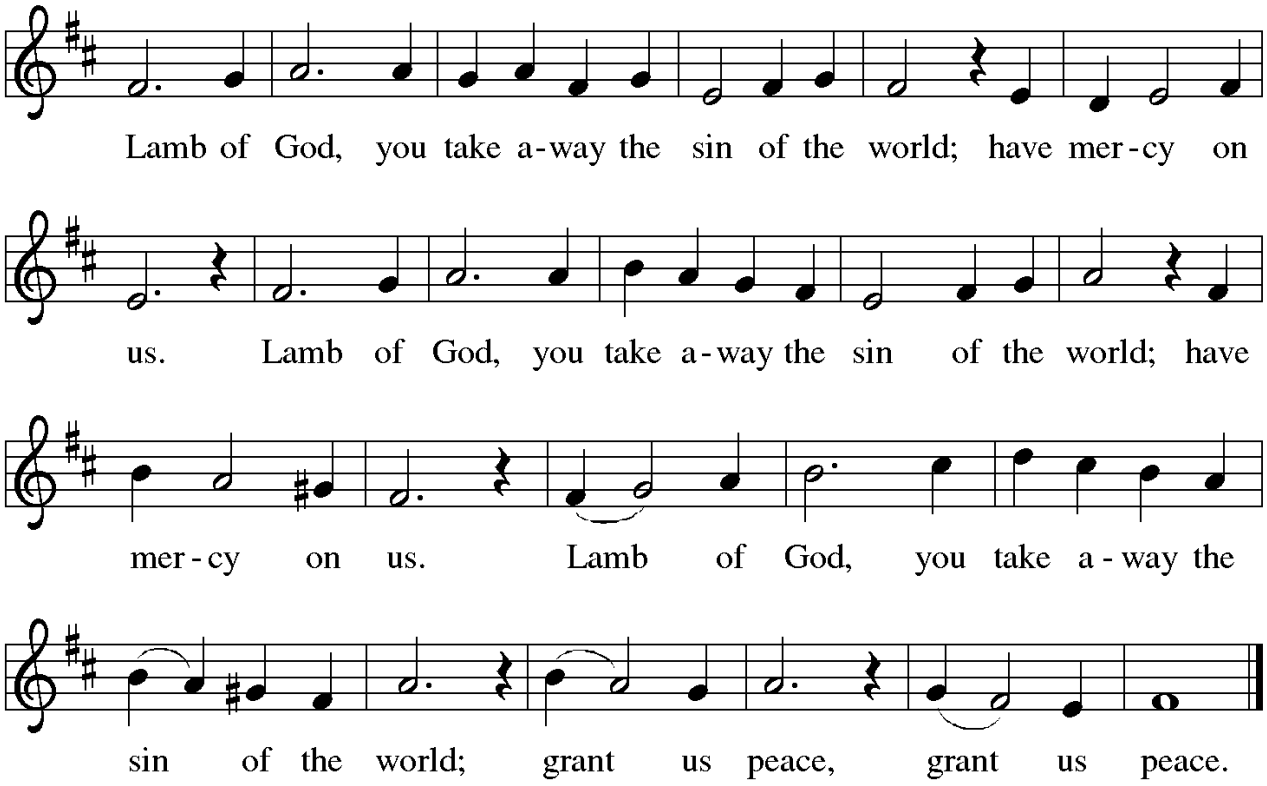
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Administration of the Sacrament

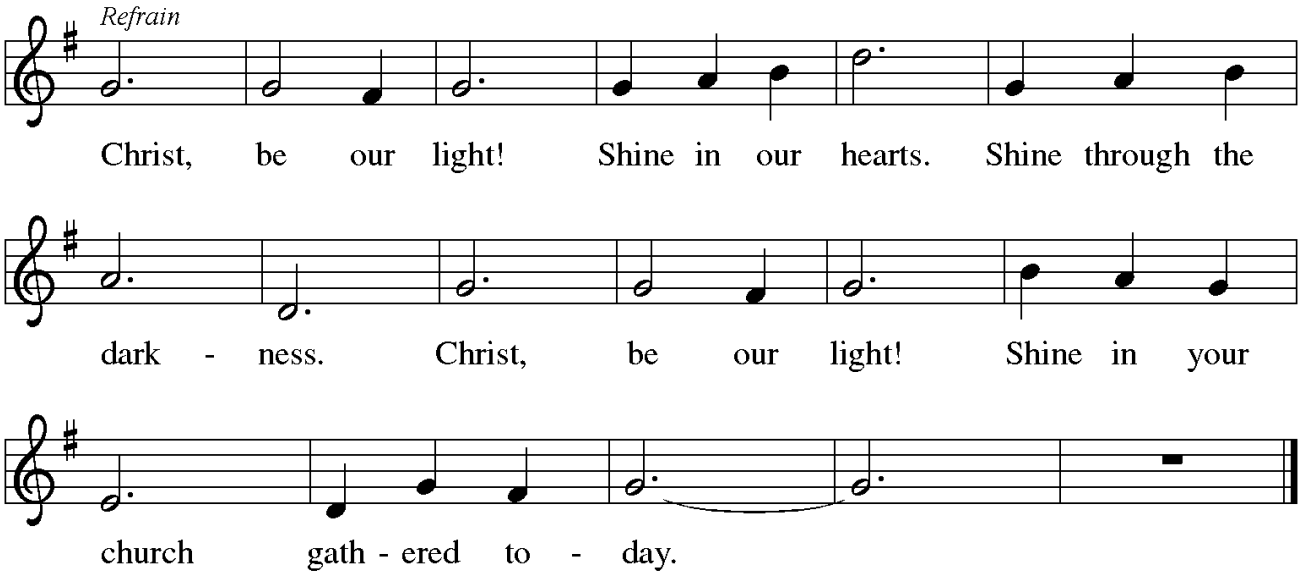
*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate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

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God



Christ, be our light ELW 715



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.
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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

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. When 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, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray 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 you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

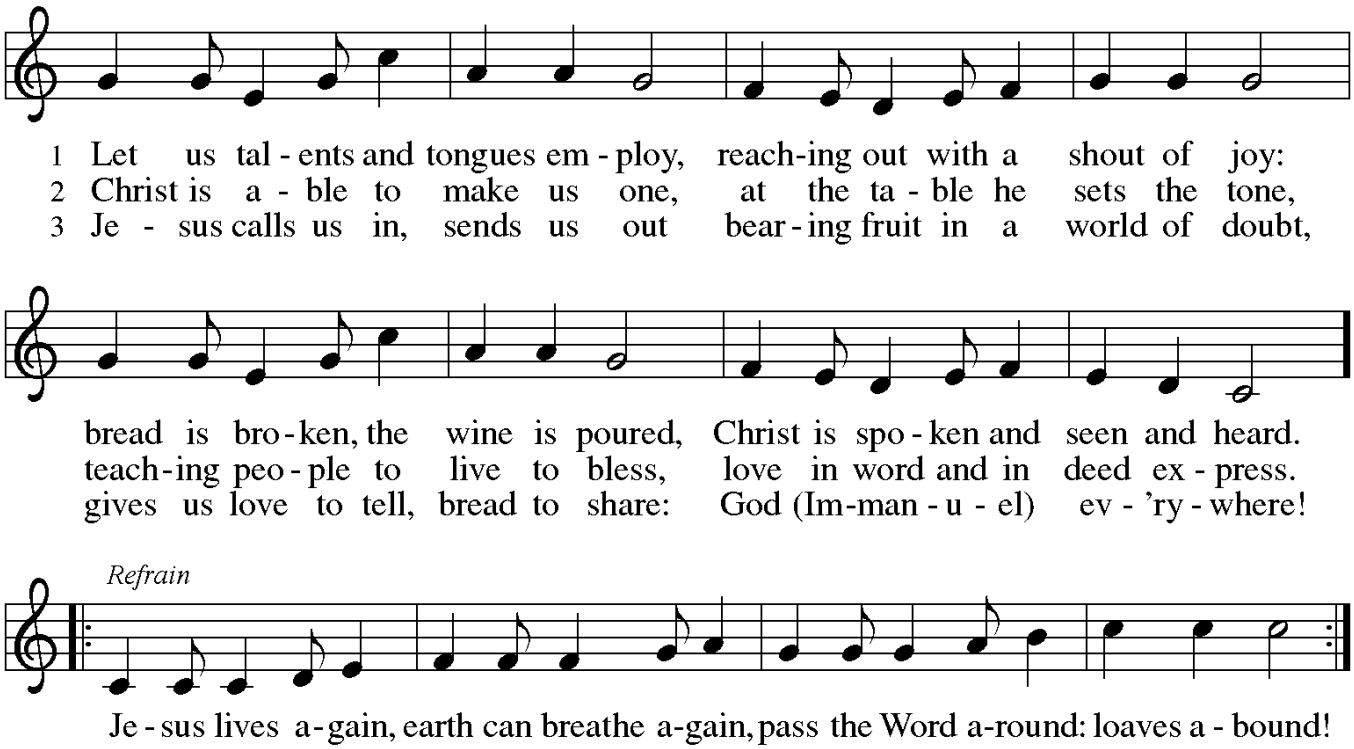
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **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
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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Fuga* Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Bernie & Andrea Clark
in celebration of our grandson Toby's 16th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us this evening for Bible Study at 5:00pm in the conference room. We are watching episodes from Season4 of the TV series, 'The Chosen'. Participation is both in-person and via zoom. For more information, please contact Jan Frick.
- Join us for Matins via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00am The link is available on our website. Please note that Vespers will resume during Advent.
- The ministry of Carol's Closet at St. James will once again be collecting coats for November, December, and January. We at St. Mark have been supporting the Carol's Closet ministry over many years, as the needs of our neighbors are ever present. If you have any spare coats that are in good condition, then please consider donating them. You can bring them to church and leave them in the Carol's Closet baskets located in the St. Mark coat closet. If you have any questions, then please contact Jan Frick.
- The next Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, November 19 at 12:30pm: Fenton River Grill, 135 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT. Optional shopping at The Hoot after lunch. Please RSVP to Ellen Z. by Tuesday, November 17.
- The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be celebrated at South Church on Tuesday, November 24 from 7:00-8:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Address: South Church, 949 Main St, So. Glastonbury.
- The deadline for the next Messenger newsletter is Monday, November 30th. This issue will cover December 11-January 31. Please send your articles, announcements and flyers to churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 15	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Dottie's Team
	5:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, November 17	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
Wednesday, November 18	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday, November 19	12:30pm	Lunch Bunch
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 22	9:00am	Christ the King Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Deb's Team

www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
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