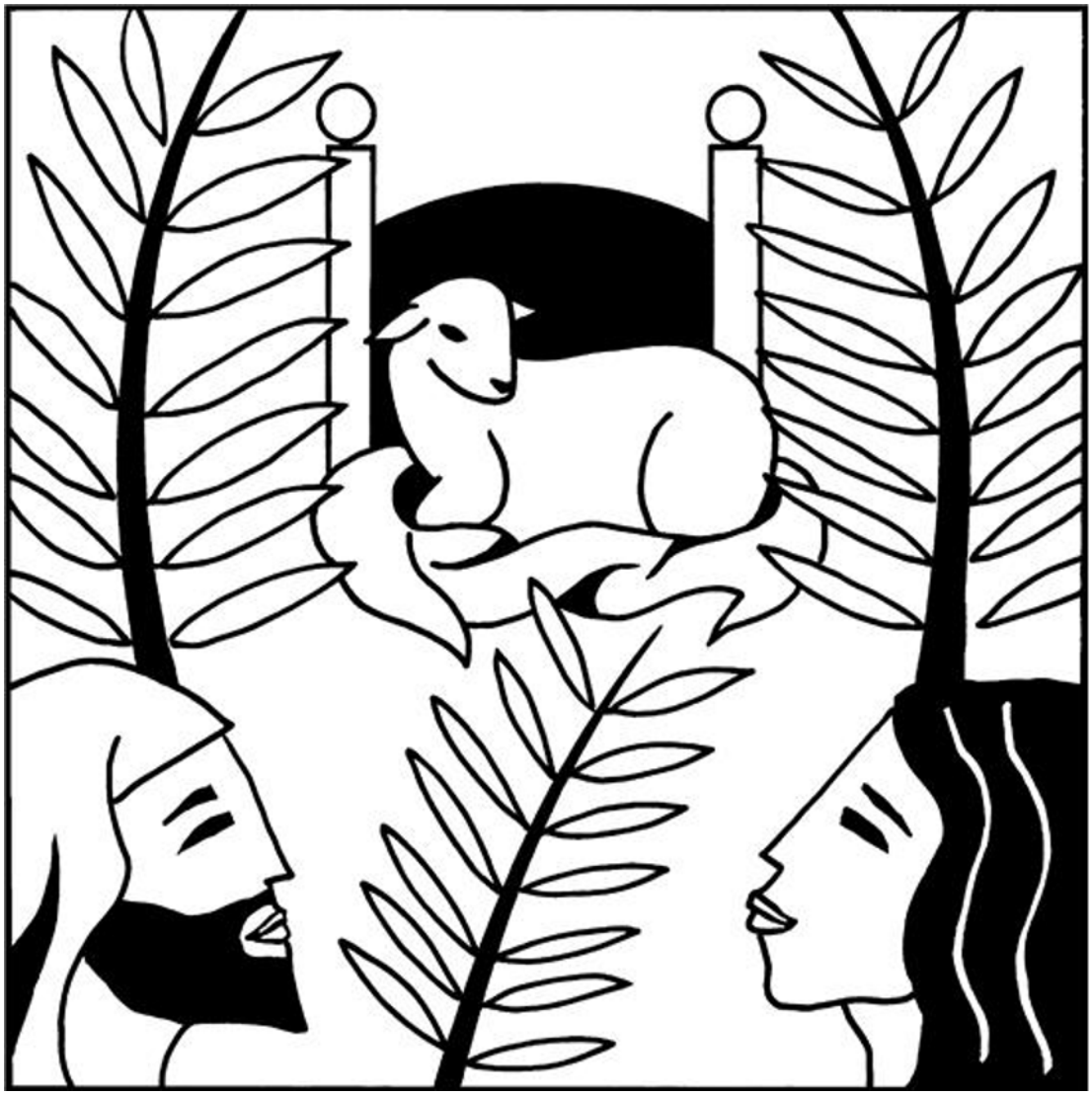


"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed."

Psalm 34:18

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
All Saints Day – November 1, 2026
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
www.stjohnchurchmars.org
Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in* ***bold****.*
All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of ***Peace****, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

At the time of ***Offering****, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*

You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. ***Guest information cards*** *and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of ***Holy Communion****, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

If you need a ***restroom****, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*
A ***playroom*** *is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

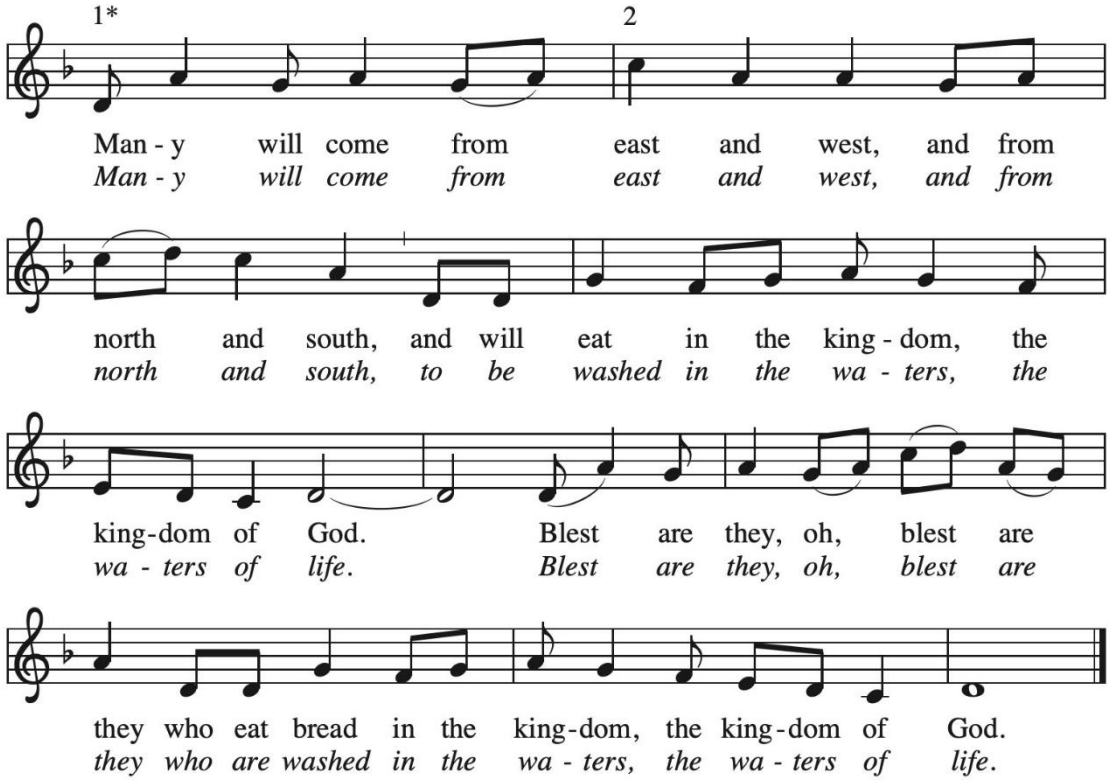
*** GREETING**

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.

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath we ask God for the strength to hear and to heed the call of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

***GATHERING SONG *Many Will Come* (ACS 982)**

sing entire song two times through



***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**
In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE Glory to God (ELW 163)**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

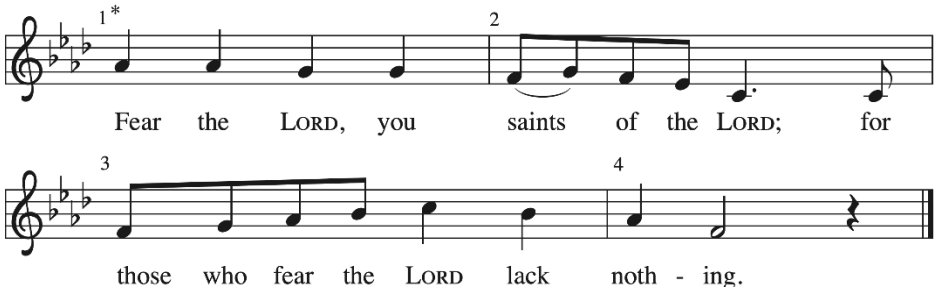
A reading from Revelation.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the
Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice,
saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures,
and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where
have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me,
"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made
them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-8, 17-19, 22

*The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with "**R**".*



1 I will bless the LORD | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
2 **I will glory | in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. R
3 Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;
let us exalt God's | name together.
4 **I sought the LORD, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
5 Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
6 **I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me**
and saved me from | all my troubles. R
7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD
and de- | livers them.
8 **Taste and see that the | LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
17 The righteous cry, and | the Lord hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.
18 **The Lord is near to the | brokenhearted**
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.
19 Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from | every one.
22 **O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,**
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Paul uses paternal imagery to depict the guidance and encouragement he provided to the Thessalonians. They received from Paul the word of God, which energizes their faith.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. [10] You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. [11] As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, [12] urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

[13] We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for
in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

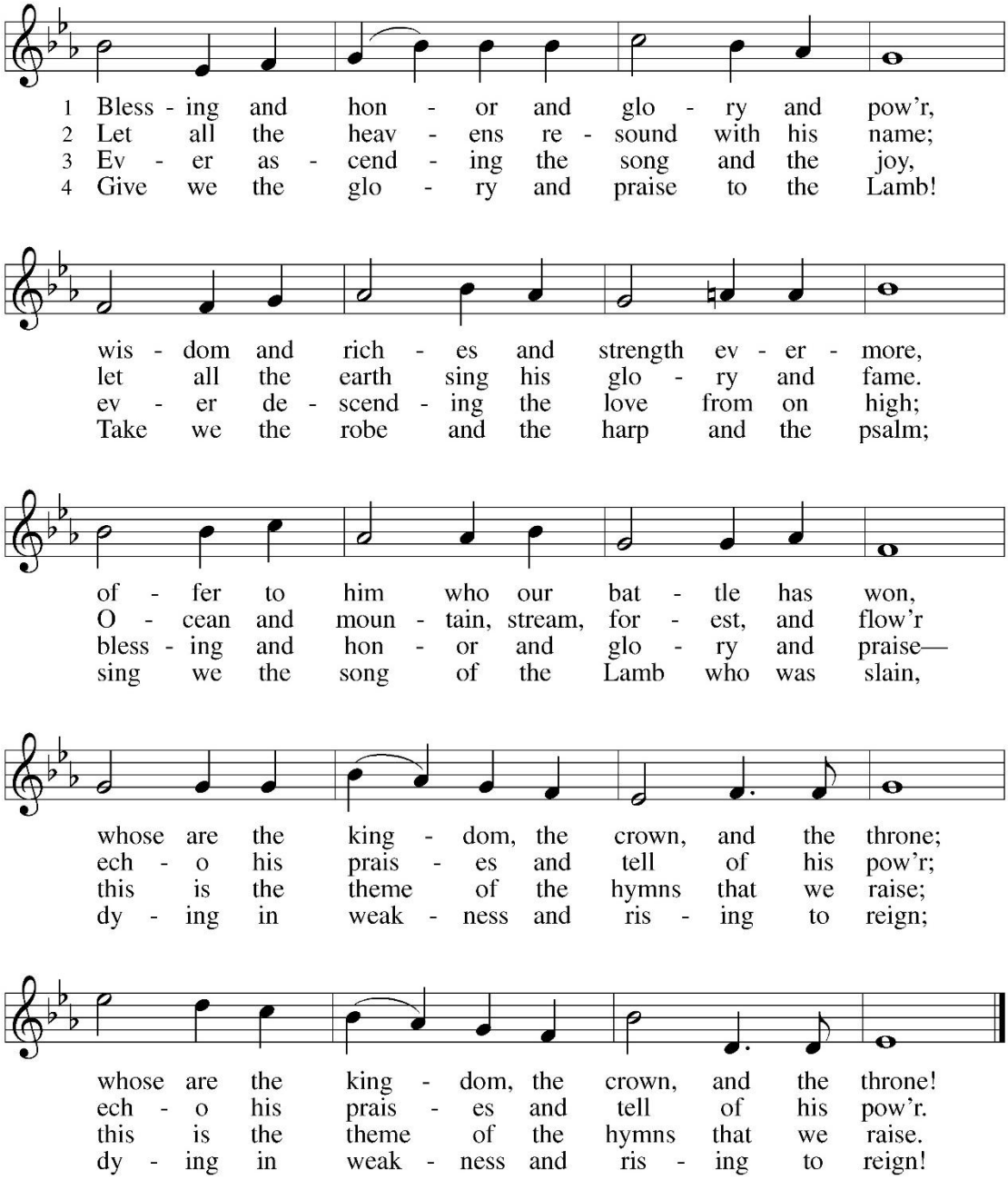
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Blessing and Honor* (LBW 525)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



***REMEMBERING THE SAINTS**
In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors.

We remember…
…teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us and
We give thanks!

We remember…
…choir member, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises and
We give thanks!

We remember…
…preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years and
We give thanks!

We remember…
… friends and family who sat with us at worship and lived out their faith all week long and
We give thanks!

We remember...
... all those who have held us in love and care and showed us Christ's love in this world and
We give thanks!

We remember…
…our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today.
For our siblings in the faith whose names are remembered only by God
We give thanks!

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come:

We give you thanks for all your faithful people
who have followed the light of your word
throughout the centuries into our time and place.

Remembering that, through our baptism, we are bound to Christ in life, death and resurrection, we use the flame from the Paschal candle to light a candle for each name. Three larger candles are also lit for all whose lives on earth have slipped away quietly in the last year without the world noticing.

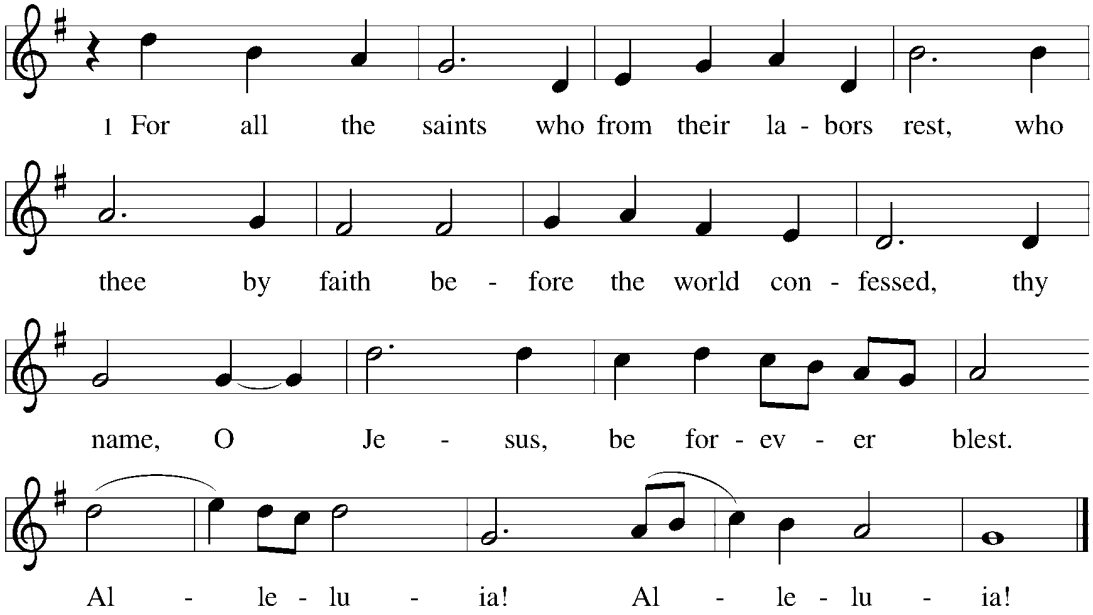
God of life, we remember and give thanks for: Dottie Delp
Anne Olescyski
Winnie Stefko

Sam & Mary Barill
Ruth & Ed Bielo
Bert & JaneAnn Bishop
David Bishop
Suzanne Berol
Harry & Nancy Bratchie
Reg Brown
Frieda Carbo
Alex J Christ
Toda Christ
John Crist
John Closshey Jr.
John & Virgina Closshey
Robert Cole
Larry Collins
James & Jean Crislip
Calvin Croft
Charles & Irene Davidson
Charles DiPrimeo
D. J. Dreher
Dianne Beck Dreher
Richard & Delores Dreher
Ray, Marie & Dennis Droddy
Loyal & Leona Ferguson
Mary Kay Fink

Grant & Clara Forsythe
Andrew Foster
Cliff & Dorothy Foster
Jeffrey Foster
Catherine Franze
Howard & Anna Mae Fritz
Valerie Friskee
Bud and Peg Hager
Leland & Helen Hager
William and Laura Hespenheide
Clifford Hovland
Gary Kalkbrenner
William Kane
Andrea Kellackey
Ruth & Robert Knauss
Helen & Wilbur Kramer
Patricia Kubiak
Mary Lynn
John & Emma Maguire
Jim Martin
Anne & Tim McCarthy
Doris & Harold McCandless
Tom & Mary Ann McKeon
Bea Mohr

Dolores Nelson
Frank & Andrea Niklewicz
Doris Niklewicz
Katie Rhodes
John & Dorothy Rimlinger
Joy & Laverna Schlag
David M. Schuster
Benjamin Scott
Gladys & Edgar Scott
Samuel & Genieve Scichilone
George Senka
Kenny Senka
Waldo & Edna Gay Smallwood
Amandus Steigerwalt
Pavline Steigerwalt
Janet Stewart
Michael & Margaret Tully
Raymond & Ethel Tully
Bob Utz
James Ward
Charles Grant Werner
Charles & Rachel Werner
Irvine & Imogene Werner
Roy Werner

As we remember these your children, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more.



***NICENE CREED**

Together, with the whole church, with the saints among us today, and with the saints who have died before us in faith, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence for reflection

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness especially Cherry, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Reed, Buzz, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, we pray that you guide us in your will as we lift these prayers to you. We pray for the joys and concerns on the hearts of your people gathered together this morning, especially we pray for (*blue prayer cards are read*). God of mercy, trusting in your promise of life, we entrust those we have named, what we have forgotten in this time, and whatever else you see that we need into your keeping. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Peace
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Abba, Abba, Hear* (ACS 1072)

**rise on 3rd verse*



***OFFERING PRAYER**
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us and called us your own. In your grace, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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.
By the witness of your saints
you show us the hope of our calling
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with all the saints,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


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!

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

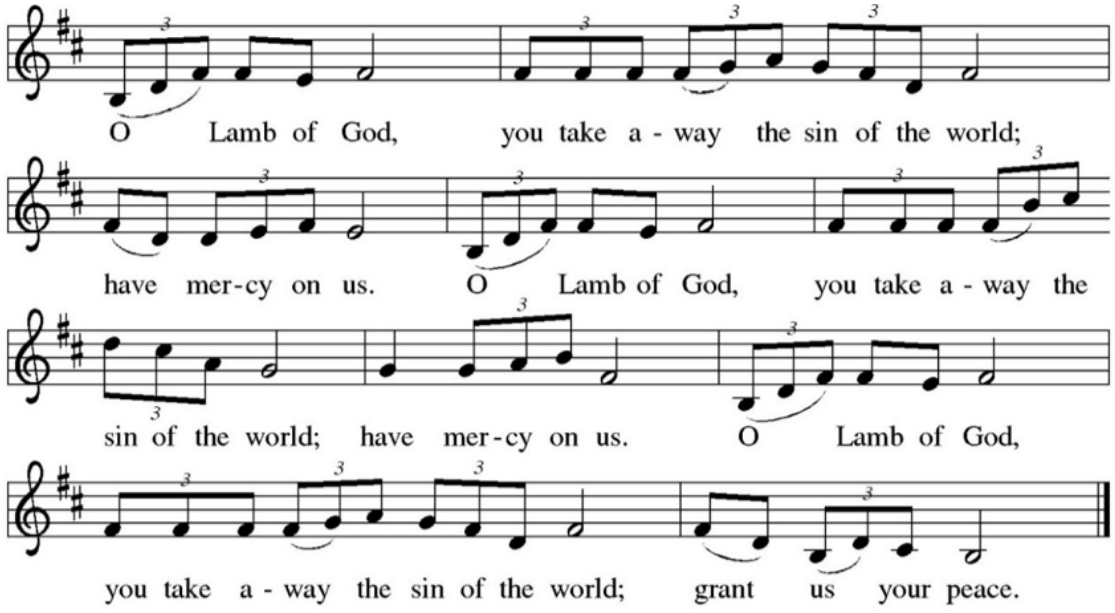
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
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**
Taste and see that the Lord is good, come, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.
Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

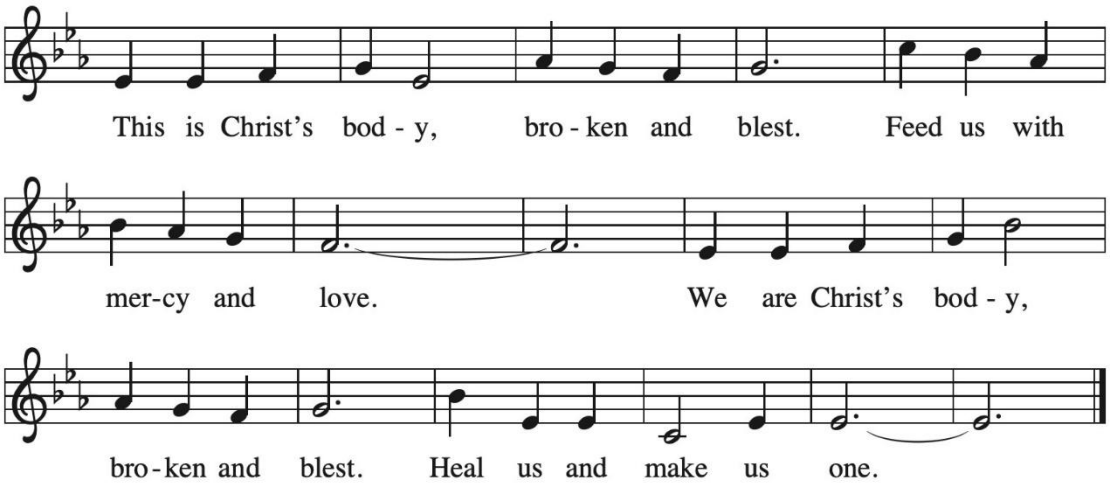
COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* (ELW 198)



COMMUNION HYMN *Blessed Are You* (Bret Hesla)



COMMUNION HYMN *This Is Christ's Body* (ACS 967)



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.
Amen

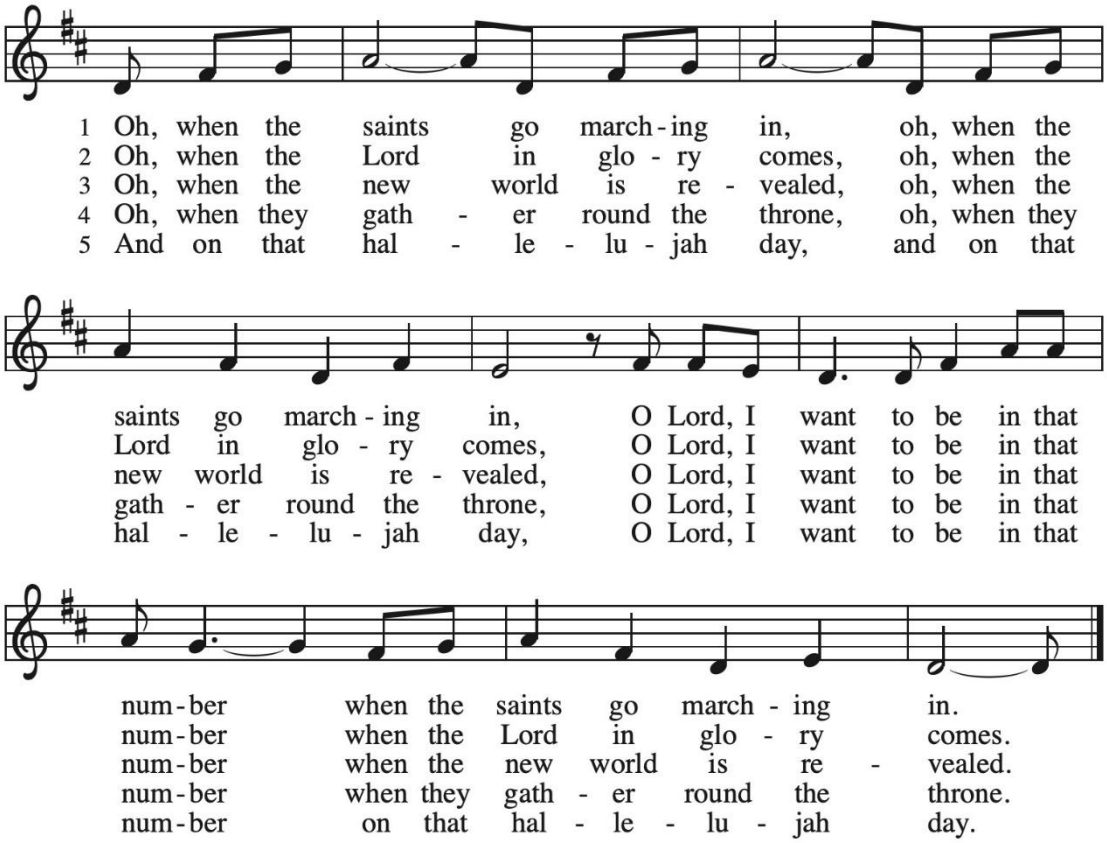
***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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

***SENDING SONG *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In* (ACS 950)**



***DISMISSAL**

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'
And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Denise H
Lector: David D
Acolyte: Carissa M
Young Reader: Carissa M
Offering: Josie W and Abby C

Notes for the day's texts:

All Saints Sunday and the appointed readings are pregnant with themes of stark contrast: death and life, condemnation and redemption, sorrow and joy, suffering and relief, present life and future life. Such is life, too, as baptized children of God. The very nature of our lives is stark contrast.

By virtue of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are made saints while we are still sinners. Every day in this juxtaposed life we navigate through rough waters such as sin, evil, pain, heartache, addiction, abuse, hunger, disease, and war. But our bearing is always set, not by the North Star but by the Daystar, who has been the heading for the faithful of every generation. With the scriptures as our compass and the confessions our map, we sail as a part of the great flotilla of saints on the waters of baptism, with the wind of the Spirit at our backs, always pointed in the direction of our guiding Daystar.

Today we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come. We give thanks for the examples of faithful living that the saints have given us as they navigated the stormy waters of life, and also for the faithful acts of service we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to do in our own seas. We give thanks, too, for the fullness of eternal life in which the saints of God who have gone before us now partake and which we have yet to fully enjoy.

Today's Music

Many Will Come. Text: Daniel Schwandt, b. 1977, based on Luke 13:26, 14:15, Music: Daniel Schwandt. Augsburg Fortress.
Blessing and Honor. Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, alt., Music: Matthias Keller, 1813-1875. Public Domain.
Abba, Abba, Hear. Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951, Music: Korean traditional. Augsburg Fortress.
Blessed Are You. Words and music by Bret Hesla. © 2002 Bret Hesla. Admin. Augsburg Fortress.
This Is Christ's Body. Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, Music: Anne Krentz Organ. Augsburg Fortress.
Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In. Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version. Augsburg Fortress.
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Next Week's Readings

Amos 5:18-24 *Let justice roll down like waters*
Psalm 70 *You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The promise of the resurrection*
Matthew 25:1-13 *The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*