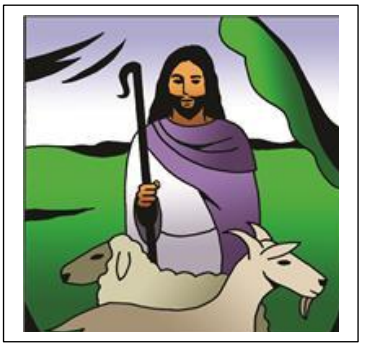


St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Christ the King

November 22, 2026 9:30am

Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Welcome and Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

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

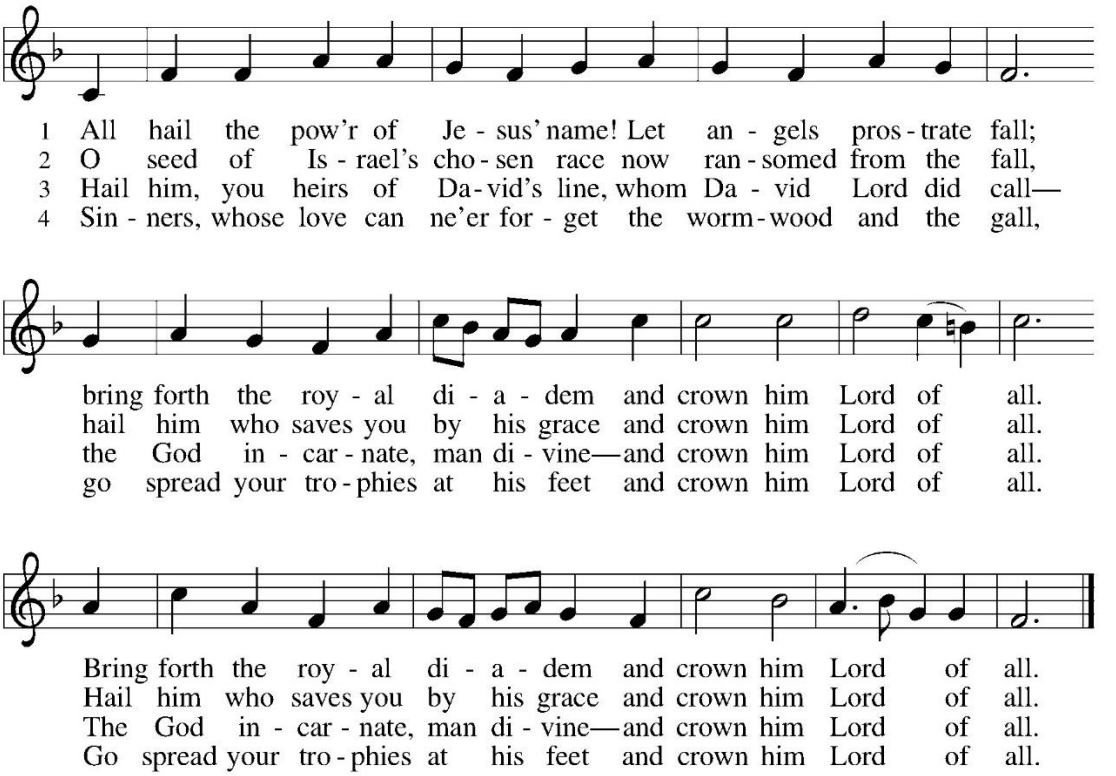
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name ELW 634 vs 1-4
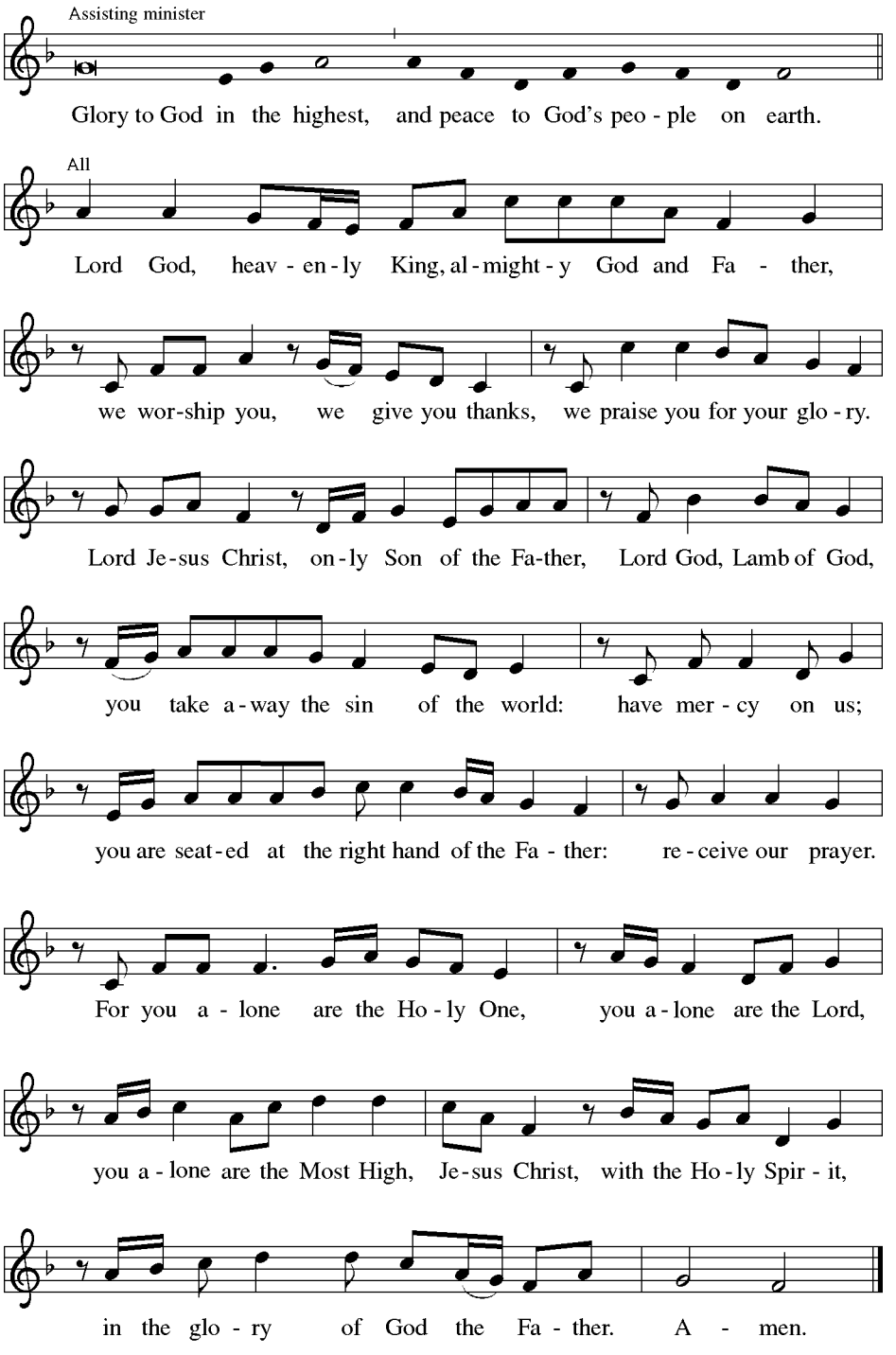


5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Greeting

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


Assisting minister
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
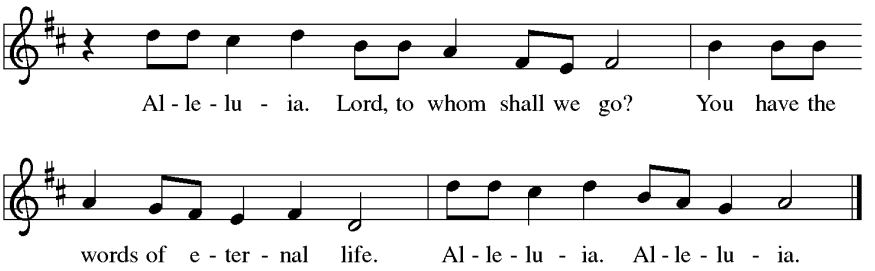
The Reading **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out.
12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will
sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been
scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the
peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and
I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the
inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain
heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the
shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek
the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with
justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted
at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will
save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep
and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them;
he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my
servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

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



Gospel: **Matthew 25:31-46 Glory to you, O Lord**.
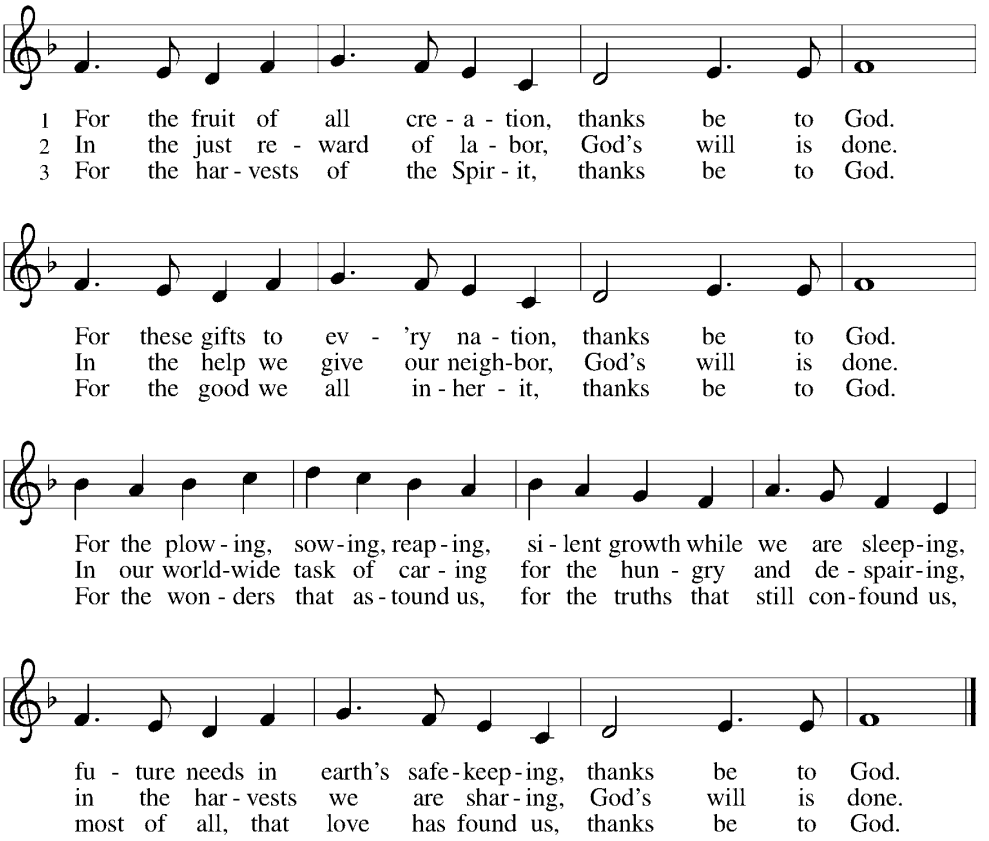
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the
angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be
gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you
who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was
naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison
and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we
saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave
you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'
40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at
his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared
for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was
thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not
welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did
not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'
45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the

least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Sermon *~Please remain seated until the meal~*

For the Fruit of All Creation ELW 679



Apostles' Creed

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. **Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care**. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. **Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. **Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward justice**. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need, especially. Alyson, Polly, Jack, Inge, Judy, Scott, Nancy, Dan & Mary, Beth,

Janet, Todd, Mary, Doris, Bud, Donna, Jill, Jareth and all those we hold in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. **Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us**. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and **bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day.** God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Prayer of Consecration

We give you thanks, this and every morning, gracious 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.
You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

On this day in the midst of a season of thanksgiving, loving God, we rejoice that through the baptism of your son by John and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, by the baptism of his death and resurrection, you have set us free from the power of sin and death and you raise us up to new life in you.
You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Gathered here this morning we re-affirm our lives of walking together as your redeemed and reconciled people. In decades past, you have sent us your Holy Spirit. Lead us still in the weaving of your within a fragmented, confused world. Lead us to nurture and feed each other, to reach out, and to proclaim your presence to all people in the name of Jesus Christ.
You are our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Guide us, merciful God, through your Holy Spirit that St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Stow, Ohio will increase as a sanctuary to the community and the stranger. Make of us a house of welcome and comfort for the poor, a consolation to the distressed, and a witness of your salvation to the sinner. Make of us a light for youth, a practicing congregation for the changes of middle life, and a comfort for the aging. We hope that you would form us to be a place of reconciliation in the midst of brokenness and a growing place for all.

You are our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust.

Stir us, O God, in a growing conviction and commitment to your call. Manifest and animate your sacred and holy plans through our pledges of money, time, and talents which we make today and each day as we are led to walk with you. Consecrate us, our thanks, and our commitments to you. May we be daily consecrated to you for newness and freshness in life.

You are our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust. Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

Special Music **We Gather Together** *(We Praise You, O God)* Jubellation Choir
By David Argerman

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

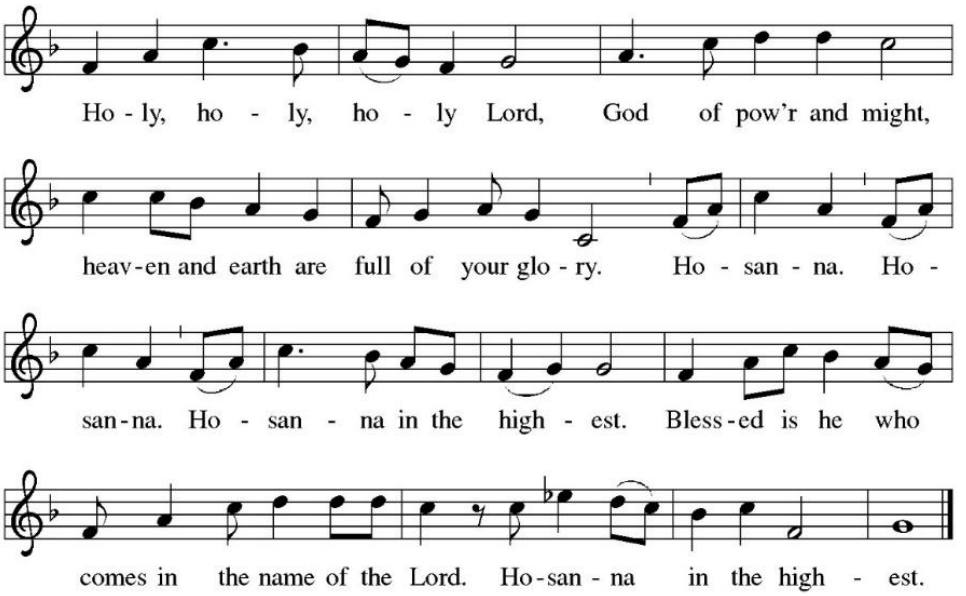
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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; who on this day overcomes death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opens to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Words of Institution

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.

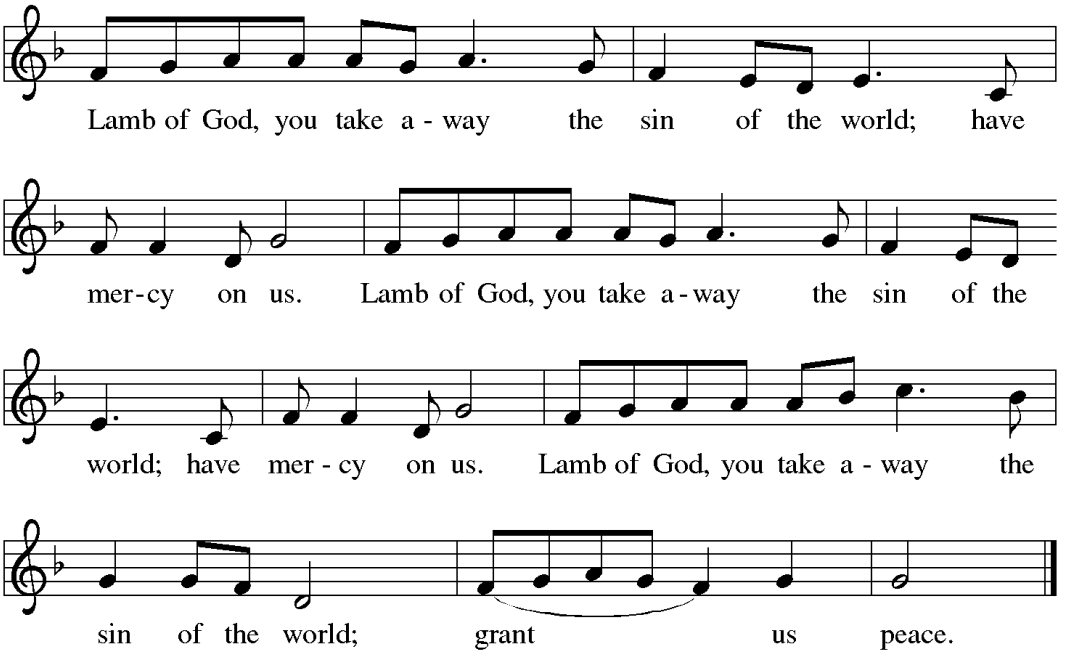
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion
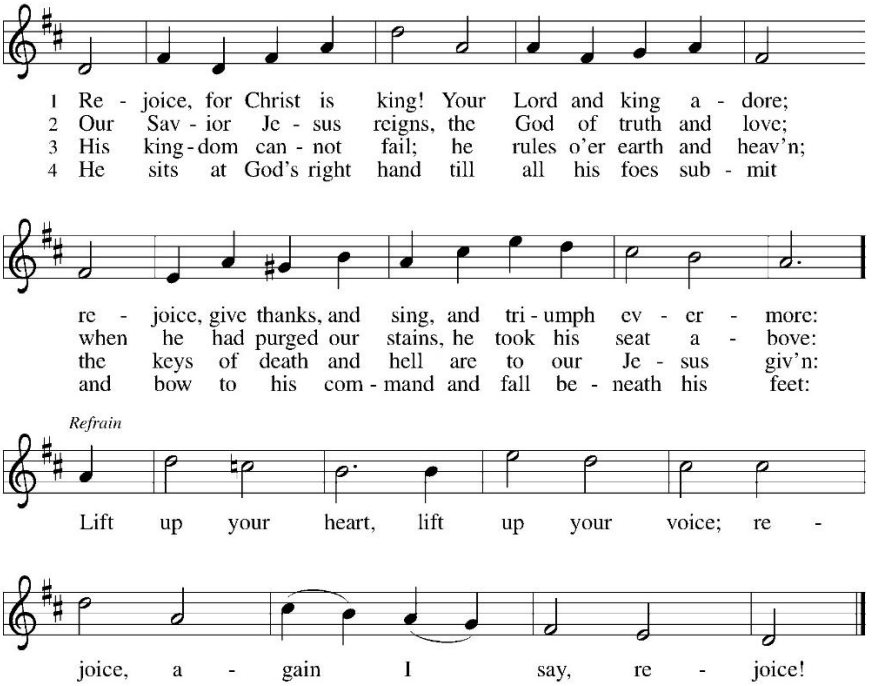
All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We ask children who have not had First Communion instruction, or adults who do not wish to receive communion, to keep their hands folded and they will receive a blessing.



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.

Rejoice, for Christ is King! ELW 430



Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Dismissal

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