

REFORMATION Sunday

First Lutheran Church

October 25, 2026

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

WOJTIEWIECZ — *Matthew Machemer*

Rise, Shine, You People!

GATHERING

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

The assembly stands.

INTRODUCTION

AM: Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world.
We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work.
Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PM: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

PM: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

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

The assembly kneels.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PM: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

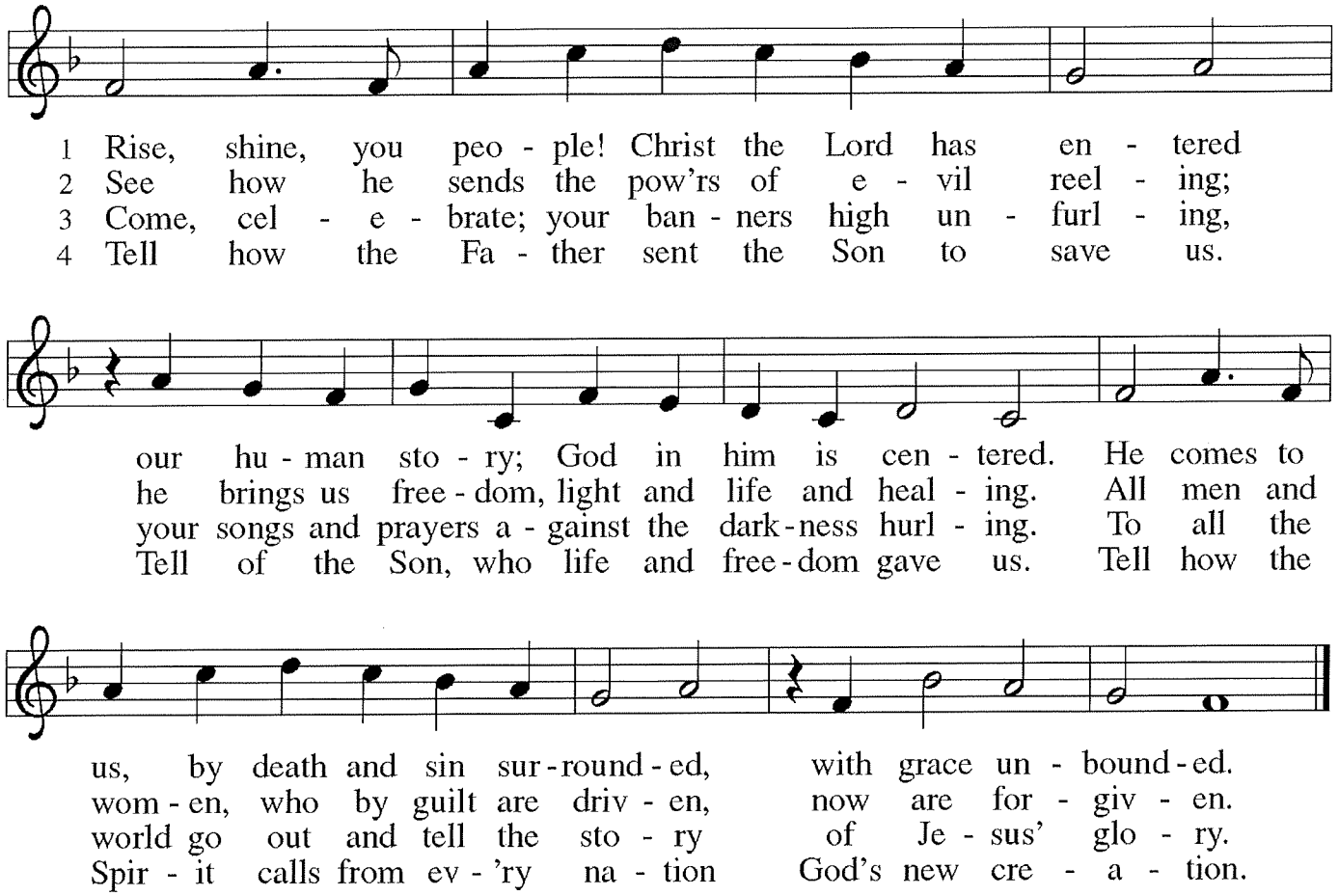
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

PM: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sin.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by His authority I, therefore, forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG *RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE* *ELW # 665*



GREETING

PM: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM *With Songs of Rejoicing* *Johann S. Bach*
Senior Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

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

FIRST READING *JEREMIAH 31:31-34*

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy. The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

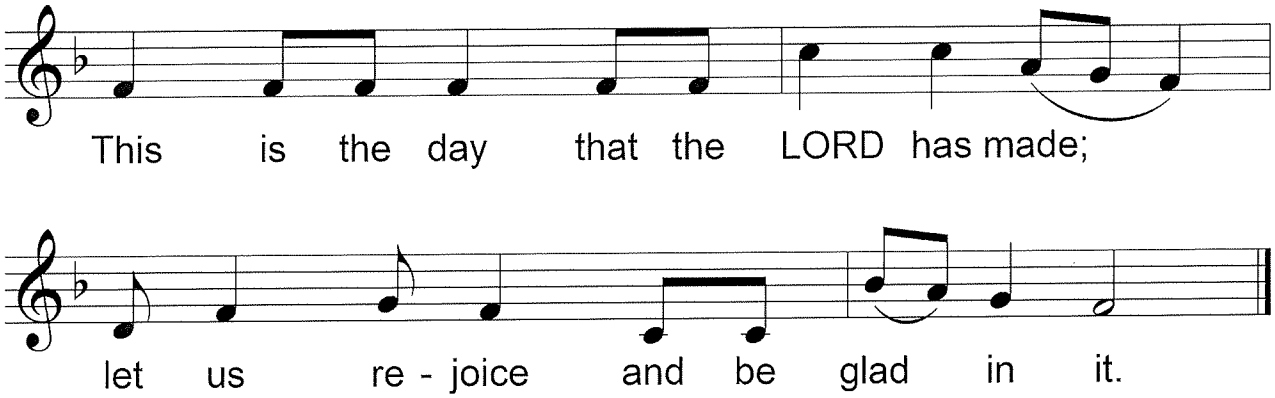
AM: A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I
made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land

of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will
be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or
say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them
to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no
more.

AM: Word of God, word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24*



The Cantor will sing the verses.

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good; God's mercy en- | dures forever.
2 Let Israel | now declare, "God's mercy en- | dures forever."
14 The LORD is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation.
15 Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:
"The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!
16 The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"
17 I shall not | die, but live, and declare the works | of the LORD. ***Refrain***

18 The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death.
19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.
20 "This is the gate | of the LORD; here the righ- | teous may enter."
21 I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation. ***Refrain***

22 The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.
23 By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the | LORD has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it. ***Refrain***

SECOND READING *ROMANS 3:19-28*

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

AM: A reading from Romans, the third chapter.

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to
God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for
through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from the law, the
righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the
Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who
believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in
Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood,
effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his
divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to
demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he
justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is
excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of
faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by
the law.

AM: Word of God, word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

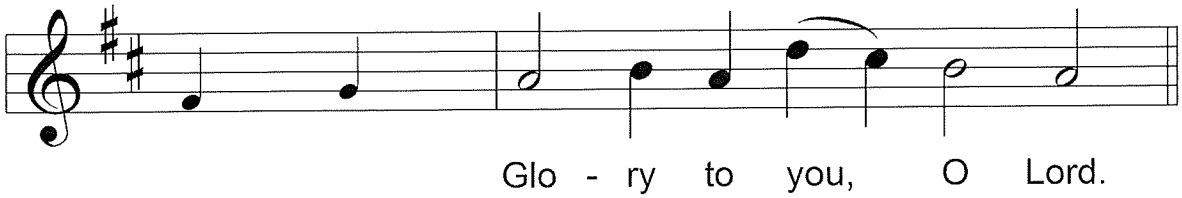
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL *JOHN 8:31-36*

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

PM: A reading from John, the eighth chapter.



31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are
truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves
to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered
them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave
does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.
36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

PM: The gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION ***PASTOR MARK SCHURING***

The assembly stands.


1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.
The old sa - tan - ic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dread - ful might he arms him - self to fight.
On earth he has no e - qual.
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re - ject - ed.
But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom God him - self e - lect - ed.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
He holds the field vic - to - rious.
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,
we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.
Let this world's ty - rant rage; in bat - tle we'll en - gage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judg-ment must pre - vail!
One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God him - self fights by our side with weap-ons of the Spir - it.
Were they to take our house, goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched a - way, they can - not win the day.
The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

NICENE CREED

PM: In trust and hope we profess our faith in 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.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,
we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

AM: As we celebrate Reformation Sunday,
we remember the witness of Martin Luther
and the reformers of the church in every generation.
Use us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day.

Each petition concludes:
PM: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

PM: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers
and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

PEACE

PM: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION
ERHALT UNS HERR *Walter L. Pelz*
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast
I. With steady motion
II. Expressively tranquil

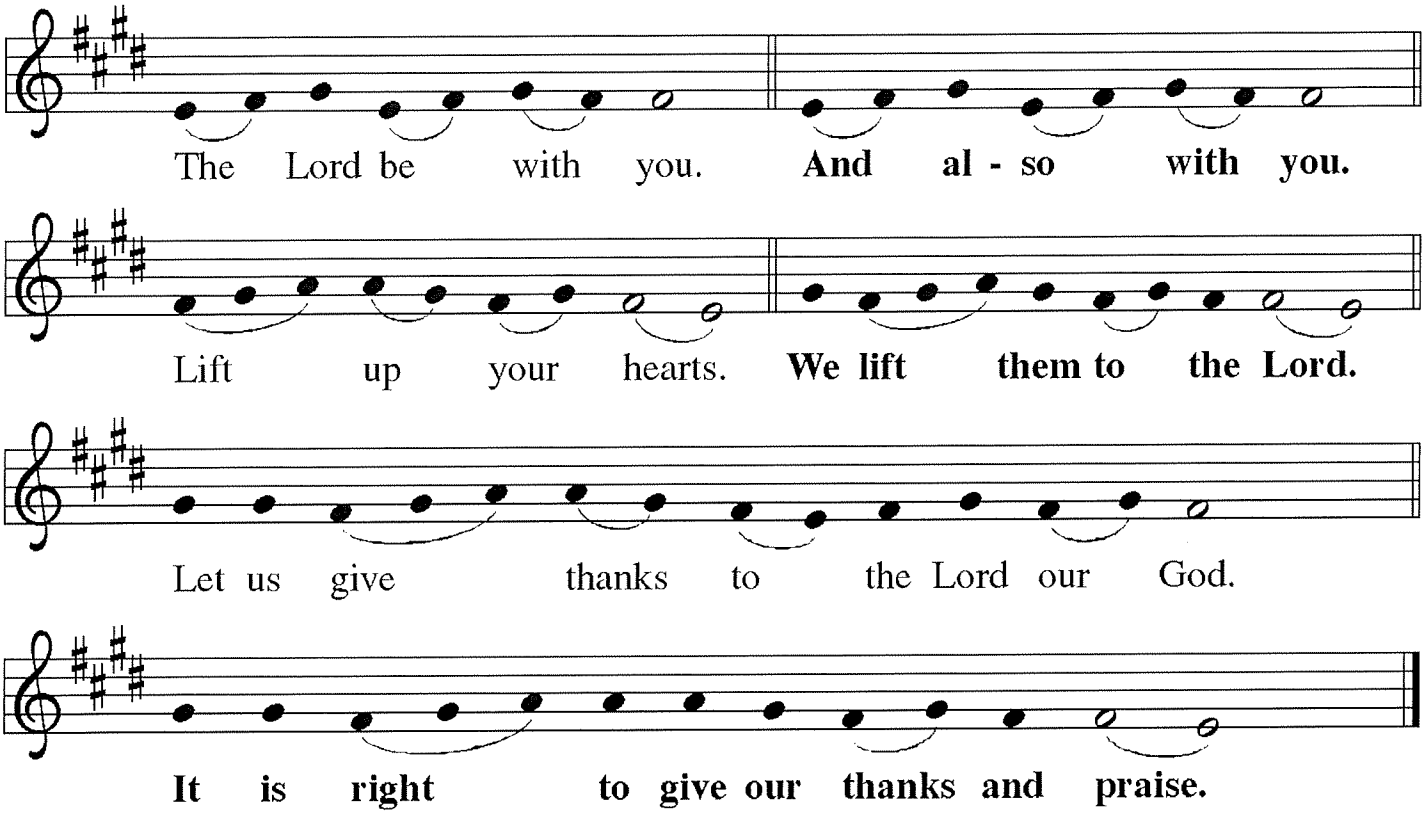
The assembly stands.

Offering Prayer

AM: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

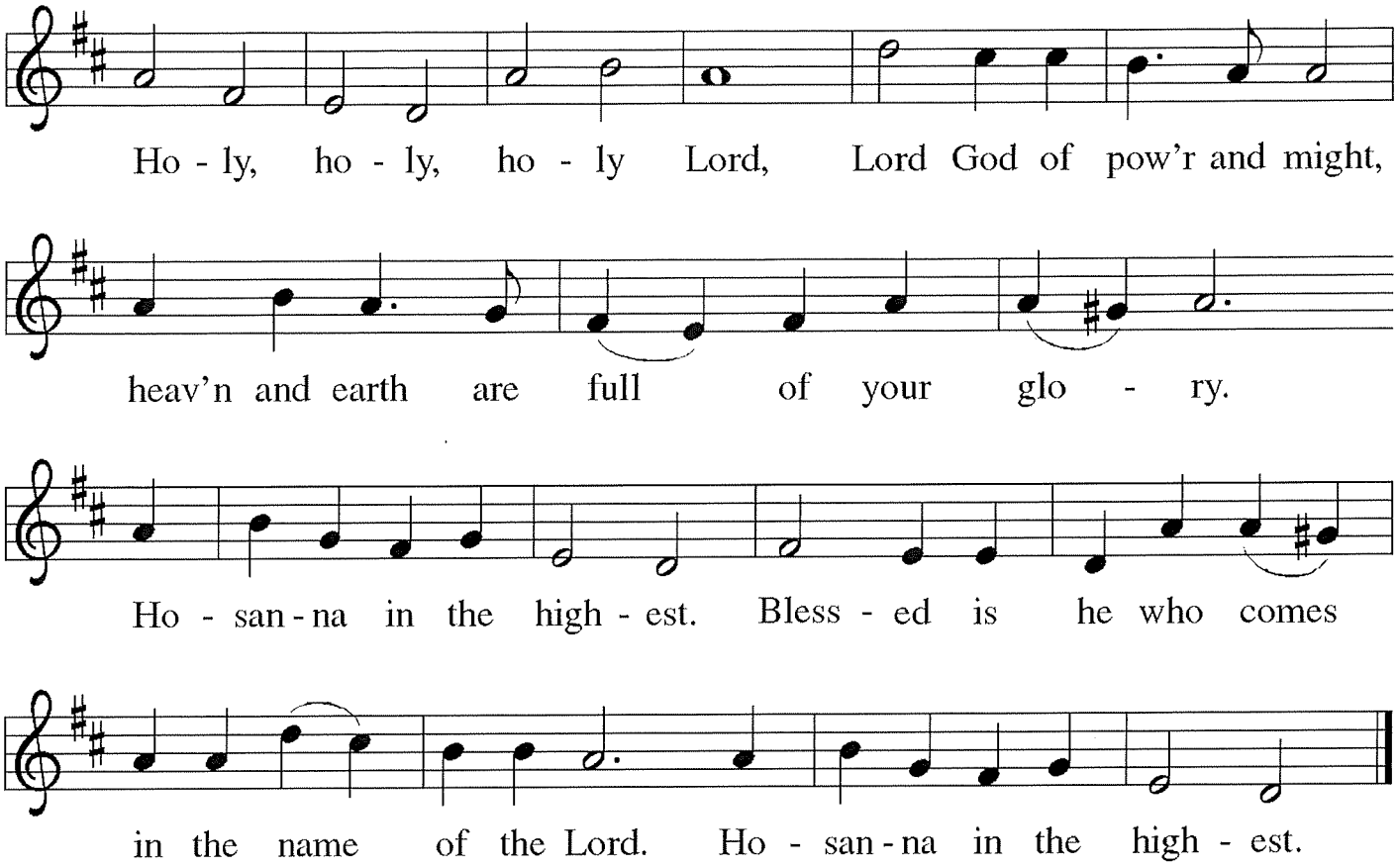


Preface

PM: 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 overcame death
and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the host of heaven, we praise your and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

PM: 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.

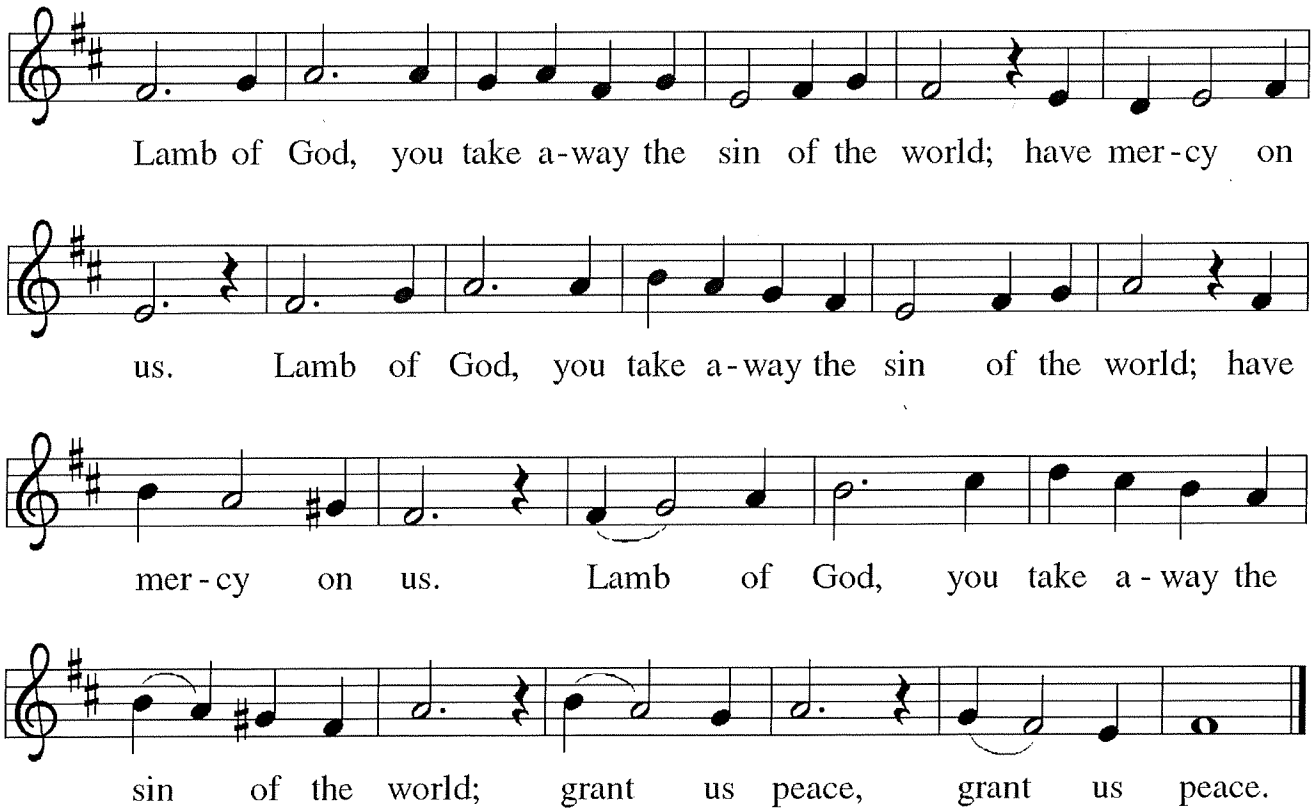
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Communion is distributed in two manners

✝ *You may commune in your pews.*
Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.
The presiding minister will share a blessing,
all communing in-place will commune together.

✝ *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*
A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PM: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION SONG — *LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST* — *ELW # 517*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done. *(Interlude)*
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly. *(Interlude)*
and lead us out of death to life.

The assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

PM: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

PM: We pray together:

**C: Oh, God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.
We are grateful for your goodness and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.
Bless our community of faith, bless the changes that are before us, bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us through this time of transition.
We thank you for the wisdom you show us.
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.
Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.**

BLESSING

PM: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✙ peace.



SENDING SONG *Built on a Rock* *ELW # 652*



DISMISSAL

L: Go out in joy.
P: Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

KIRKEN *Gordon Young*
Built on a Rock

Events in Review

Sunday	**Oct 25**
10:00 AM	Reformation Sunday
4:30 PM	Halloween Hospitality
Monday	**Oct 26**
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
Tuesday	**Oct 27**
Wednesday	**Oct 28**
Thursday	**Oct. 29**
Friday	**Oct 30**
Saturday	**Oct 31**

Today is **Reformation Sunday**

If you forgot to wear **RED**, please take a badge located with the bulletins

Veteran's Day is Nov 8th. Please review the Information Board and keep us updated on the information. We would like to expand this display and pictures would be greatly appreciated





If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Next

Sunday	**Nov 1**
10:00 AM	All Saint's Day
1:00 AM	Daylight Savings Time End
Monday	**Nov 2**
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
Tuesday	**Nov 3**
	Election Day
Wednesday	**Nov 4**
Thursday	**Nov 5**
Friday	**Nov 6**
Saturday	**Nov 7**

All Saint's Day—Nov 1st.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend to celebrate their loved one, please make sure to invite them.

Halloween Hospitality returns Tonight

There is a sign up sheet located on the bulletin board for anyone who wishes to help with this event. There is also a donation box located on the hallway table for anyone who wished to donate treats to our goblins.

Still in need of candy

Contact Us



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419-447-1323

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firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild:	The Nominee Family
Cantor:	Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera	
Host	
Reader:	Shelley Ross
Worship Assistant	Shelley Ross
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King
Minister:	Pastor Mark Schuring
Assisting Minister:	

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

Emergency Contacts

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RICK GREENE (SAM)	419 937-7378
CURTIS L. KING	419 937-7142
GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

Our Mission Statement

"God is among us!"

"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."

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