GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.



Today's Worship Theme

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.



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Greeters: Nancy Mamlin
Ushers: Roger Bodo
Altar Guild: Beth Reavis
Coffee Host: Bev DeBenedictis

If you are visiting, please review the Welcome Pew Card in the wooden pocket.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the "Grace Happenings" Thursday e-newsletter and our website's monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).

PRELUDE

"Rustington" ("God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending") *Brenda Portman*

We rise.

CONFESSIONS 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 as we kneel.

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.**

We rise.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING HYMN

"Christ, Be Our Light" *ELW 715*

GREETING
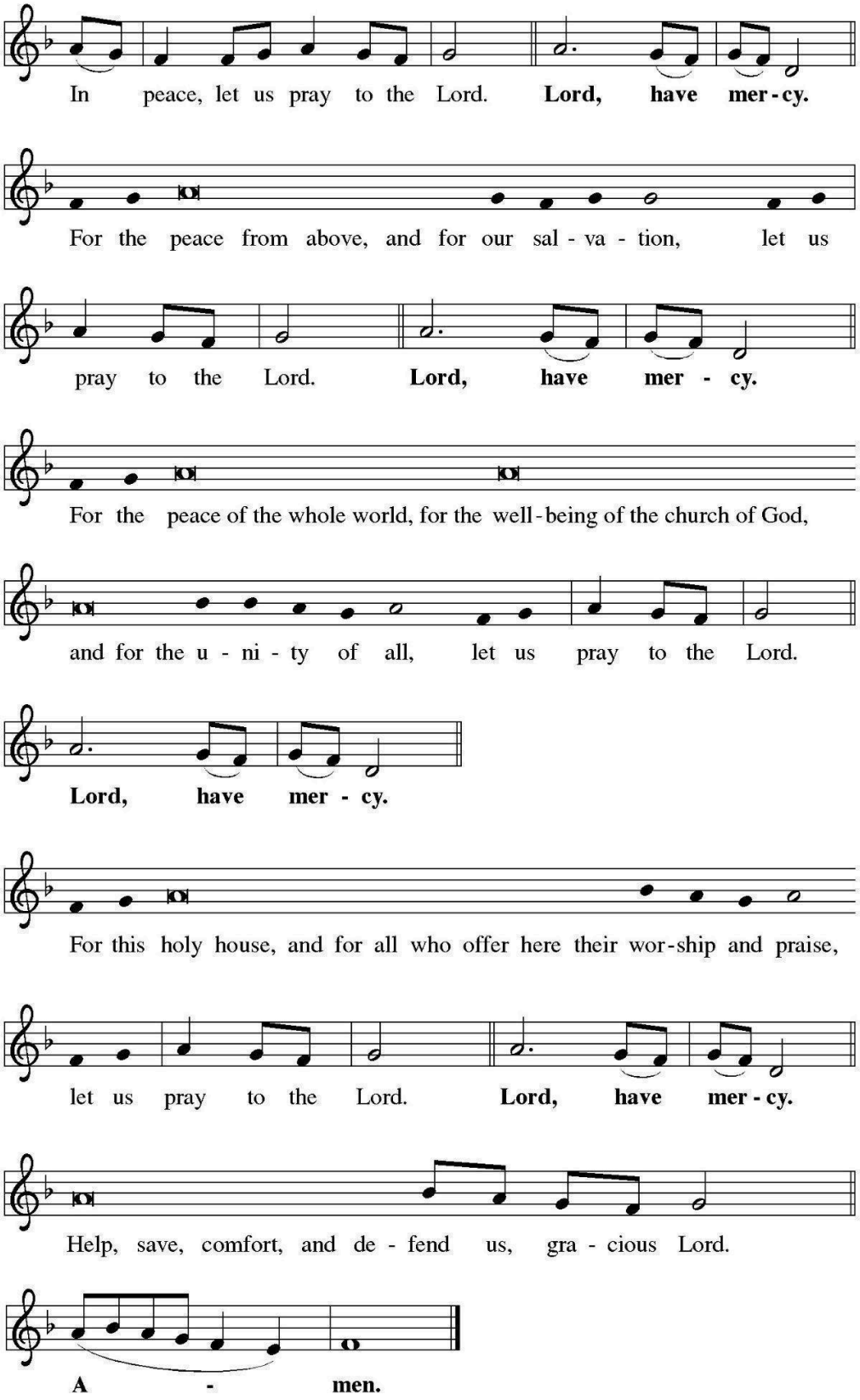
Assisting Minister: Jan Burgess

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.**
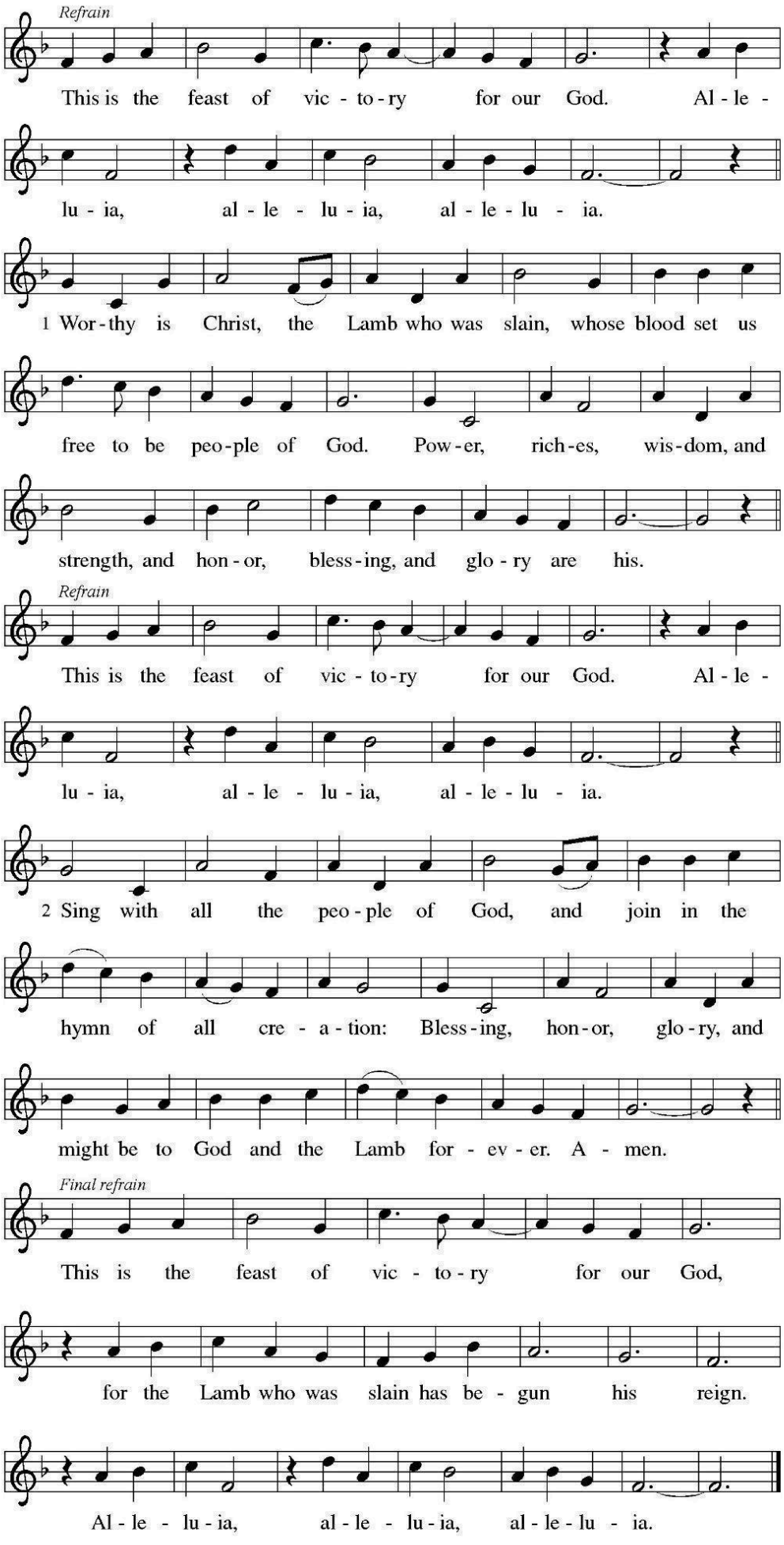
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE



Be seated. ✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then go upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and return for communion.

A READING FROM Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Lector: Anna Seden

The day of the Lord

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.**

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 *Read responsively.*

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 children of earth.”

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

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.

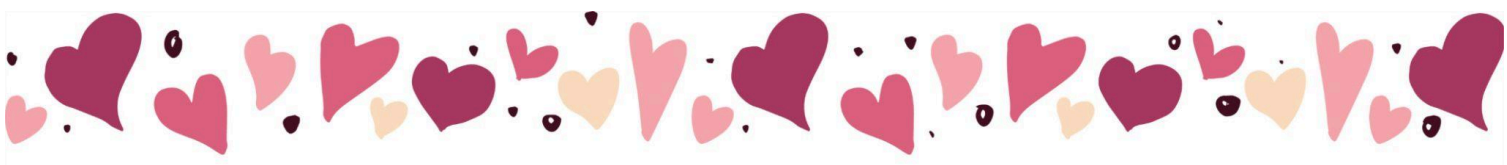
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.



A READING FROM 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

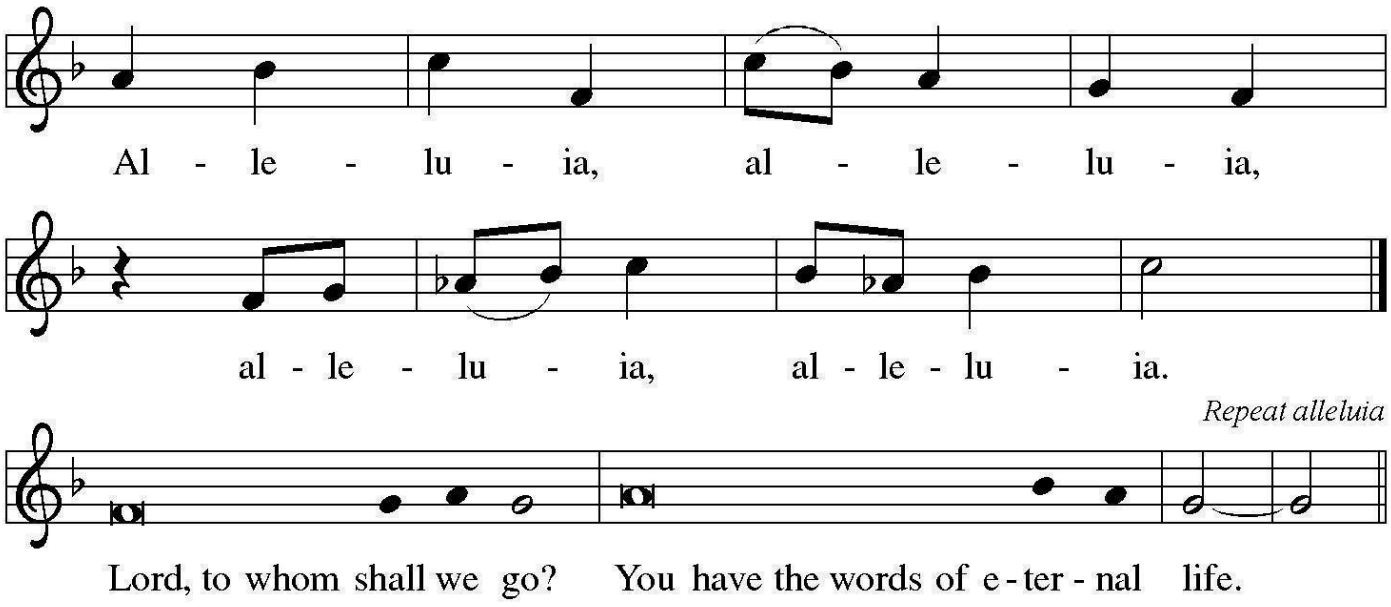
Be alert for the day of the Lord.

[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.**

We rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:14-30

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **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.**

Be seated.

SERMON *Pastor Steve Troisi*

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* *ELW 678*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

We kneel.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be seated. ✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG *"Lord, You Call Us"* *Michael Burkhardt*

Lord You call us as Your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in Your sight.
Give us faith to trust You boldly and to love You steadfastly.
By Your spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord you call us, as disciples, walking on Your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior You are with us every day.
Give us wisdom; give us courage as You teach us patiently.
By your spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be. .

Lord, You send us to the harvest in your Great Commission's call,
Reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion; bless us with Your eyes to see.
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be. *(CONT.)*

Lord, You call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow You alone.
Knowing that Your hand is guiding, and You love us faithfully
By Your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.

Lord, You call us, as Your people, joined in faith we sing Your praise.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Alleluias to you raise.
Hold us in Your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
That rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.

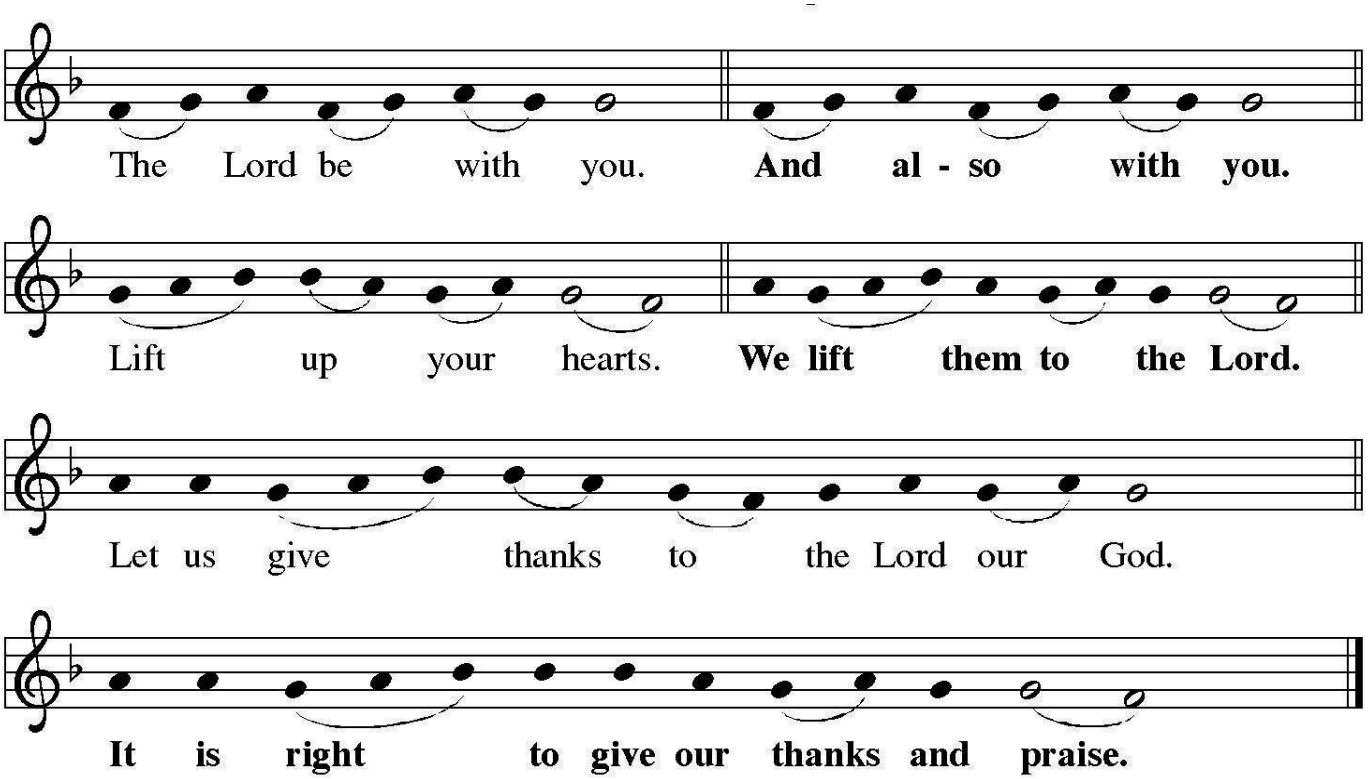
Thank you for partnering with Grace . Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the collection box or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.

We rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

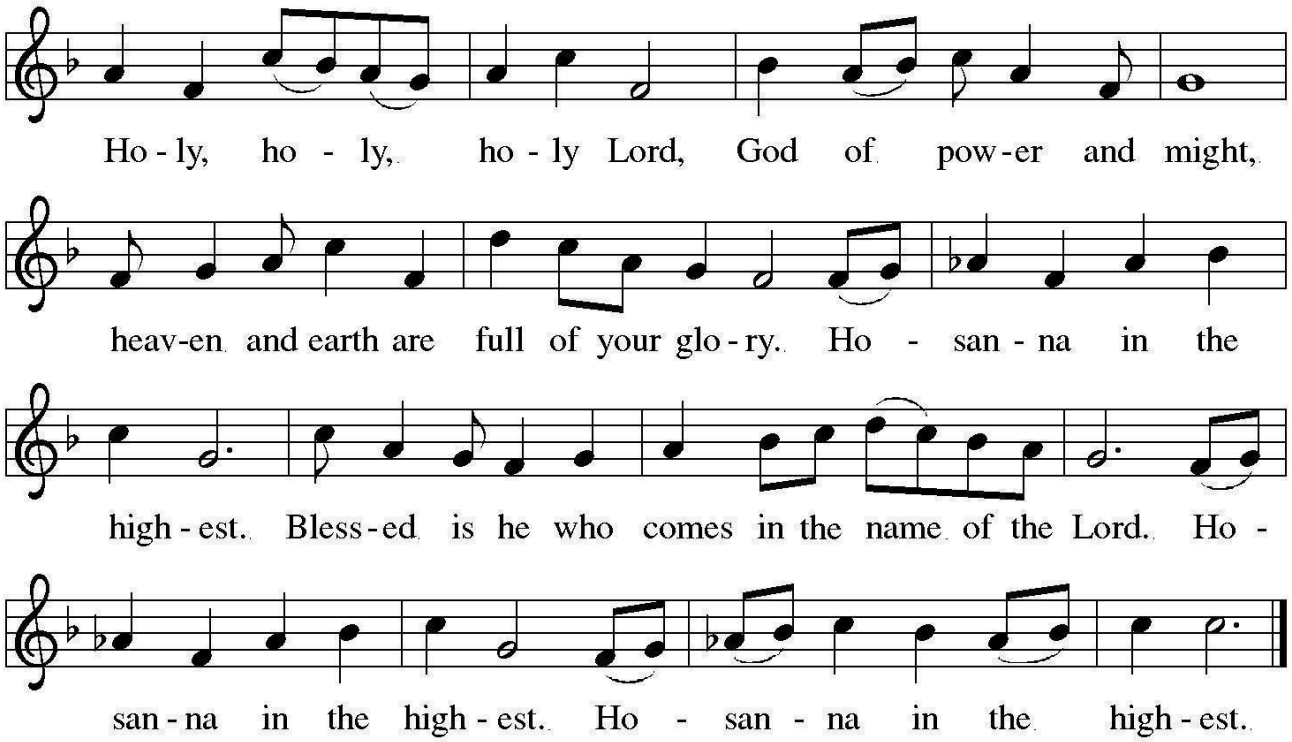
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy … and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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 *Communion Assistant: Kingsley Okike*

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all are welcome! Receive communion at the head of the aisle: bread (gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you. After receiving communion, you are invited to kneel at your pew for prayer. On the first and third Sundays, healing prayers are offered in the Chapel.

COMMUNION SONG & HYMNS *"Lamb of God"* *p. 135 of ELW*
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" *ELW 492*
"Light Dawns on a Weary World" *ELW 726*

We rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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 ✠

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* *ELW 632*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"* *Jeffrey Blersch*

CHANCEL FLOWERS	**SANCTUARY LAMP**
Are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bob's mother, Gertie. She wasn't rich in the worldly way, but she was very rich in her goodness, generosity to and caring for others. She taught her children by strong example by Bob & Joan Streightiff.	Is burning to the glory of God by Ron & Gail Schuette.

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 22

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 | Psalm 95:1-7a | Eph. 1:15-23 | Matt. 25:31-46

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026

October Giving	October Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
$34,744.00	$35,000.00	$54,082.00	$70,000.00