All Saints Day
November 1, 2026

Welcome!

We delight in having guests and are glad that you have joined us today.

First Lutheran Church

6 Eddy Street
Waltham, MA 02453-7753
781-893-6563

firstlutheranwaltham.org

Follow us on Facebook at
First Lutheran Church - Waltham, MA

The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl,
Pastor tmaehl@rcn.com

Ms. Cynthia Niiler,
Director of Music
and Parish Secretary
firstlutheranwalthamoffice
@gmail.com

Vicar Jessica Labenski, Intern
firstlutheranwalthamvicar
@gmail.com

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor
Tom Maehl
Musician
Cynthia Niiler
Assistant Minister
Sandy Hebert
Acolyte
Kalyse Black
Lector
Catherine Sukow
Ushers
Heather Fahey
A/V
Hazel Maehl
Altar Care
Dee Speer
Counters
Ted Sjodin
Alan Sieving

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering in God's Presence

The congregation is invited to stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace
with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

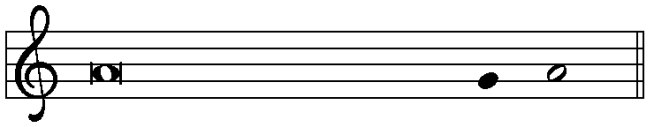
Gathering Hymn: "Shall We Gather at the River"



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.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



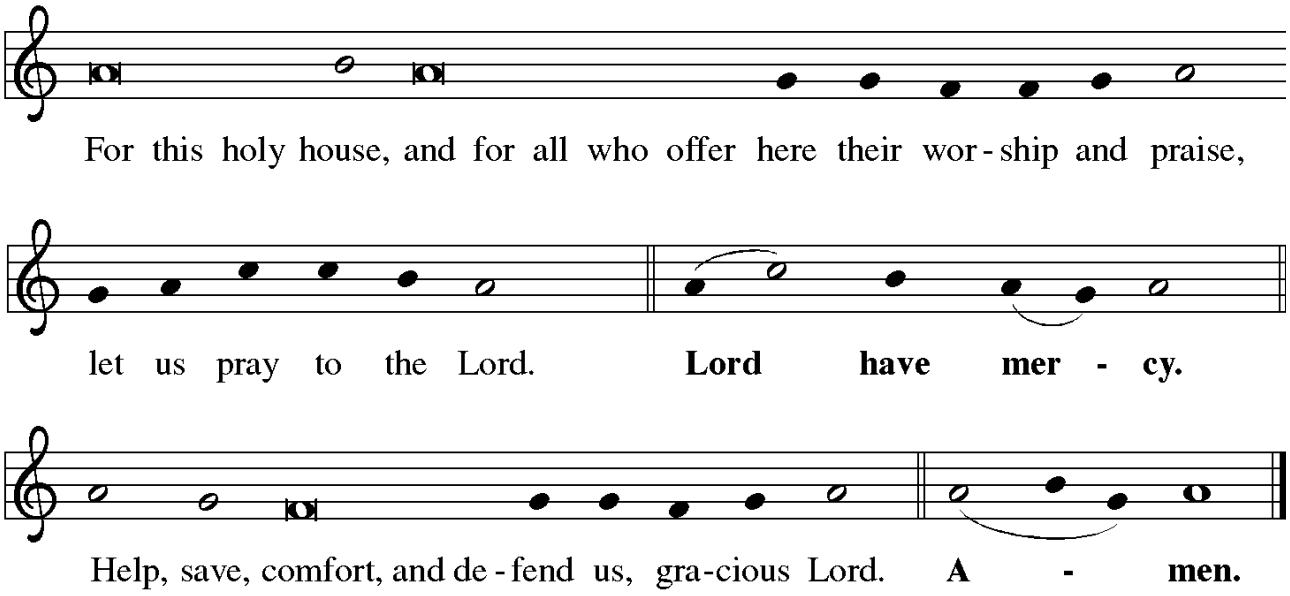
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Hymn of Praise





The Prayer of the Day

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.

Hearing God's Word

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

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, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 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.

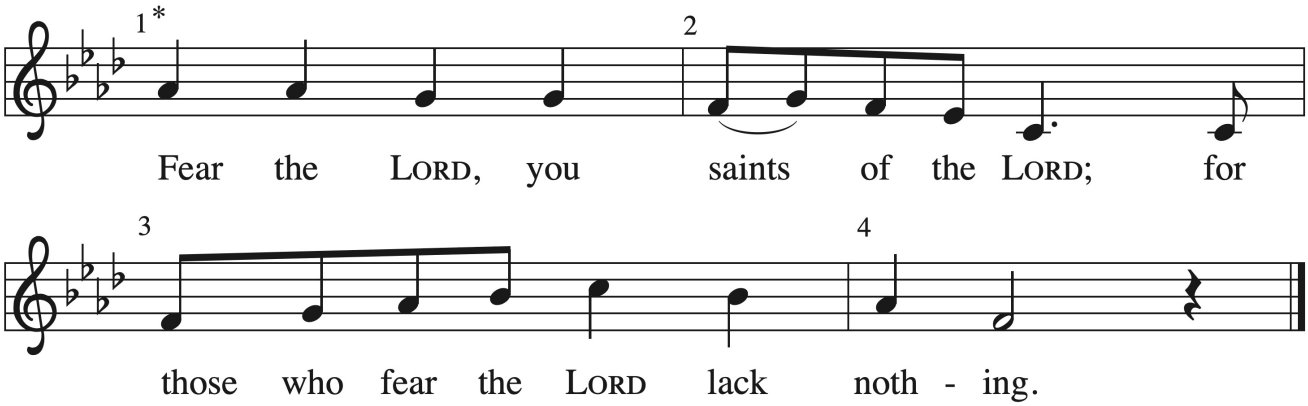
For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will 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.

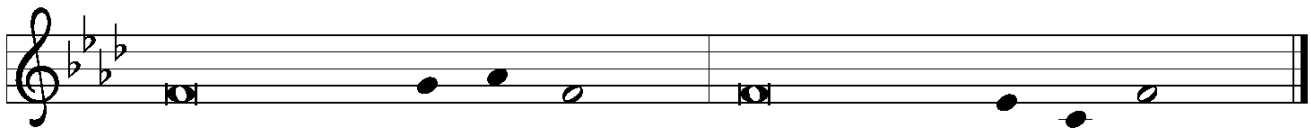
Psalm: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Refrain:



**May be sung in canon.*

Tone:



Refrain

I will bless the Lord | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
I will glory | in the Lord;
let the lowly hear | and rejoice.

Refrain

Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt God's | name together.
I sought the Lord, who | answered me
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
Look upon the Lord | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me
and saved me from | all my troubles.

Refrain

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord
and de- | livers them.
Taste and see that the | Lord is good;
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
Fear the Lord, you saints | of the Lord,
for those who fear the | Lord lack nothing.
The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing | that is good.
O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

Refrain

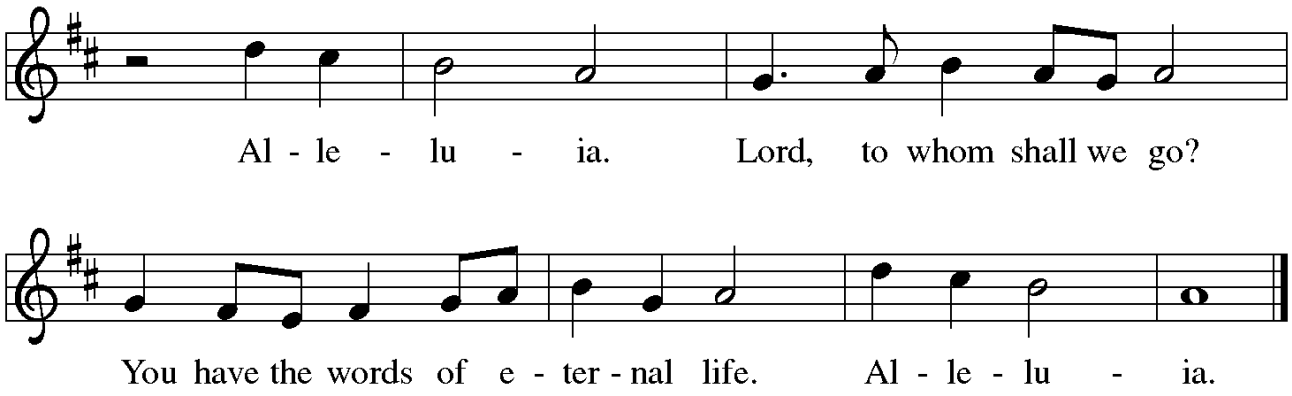
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 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.

The congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Remembering the Saints

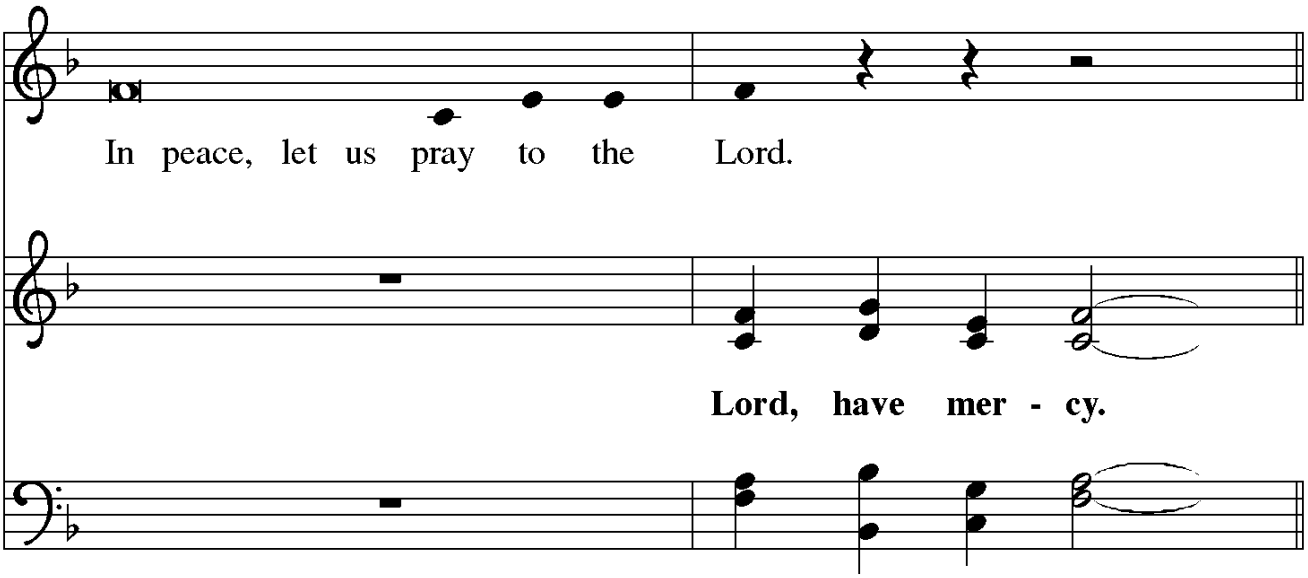
A bell rings three times to begin our time of remembrance.

Behold the host arrayed in white like thousand snow-clad mountains bright,
that stands with palms and sings its psalms before the throne of light!

Saints of the Bible

Mary, Joseph, Abraham, Sarah, Rachel, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, Jacob, Esau, Miriam, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Deborah, Samson, David, Hannah, Samuel, Solomon, Isaiah, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, Peter, James, John, Joanna, Susanna, Priscilla, Mary Magdalene, Nathanael, Timothy, Zacchaeus, Philemon, Onesimus, Lydia, Paul, Simon of Cyrene, Ezekiel, Daniel, Silas, Barnabas, Ruth, Elijah, Esther, Martha, Jeremiah, Luke, Dorcas, Micah, Titus, Timothy, Phoebe, Naomi, Eunice, Lois, the Woman at the Well.

Litany



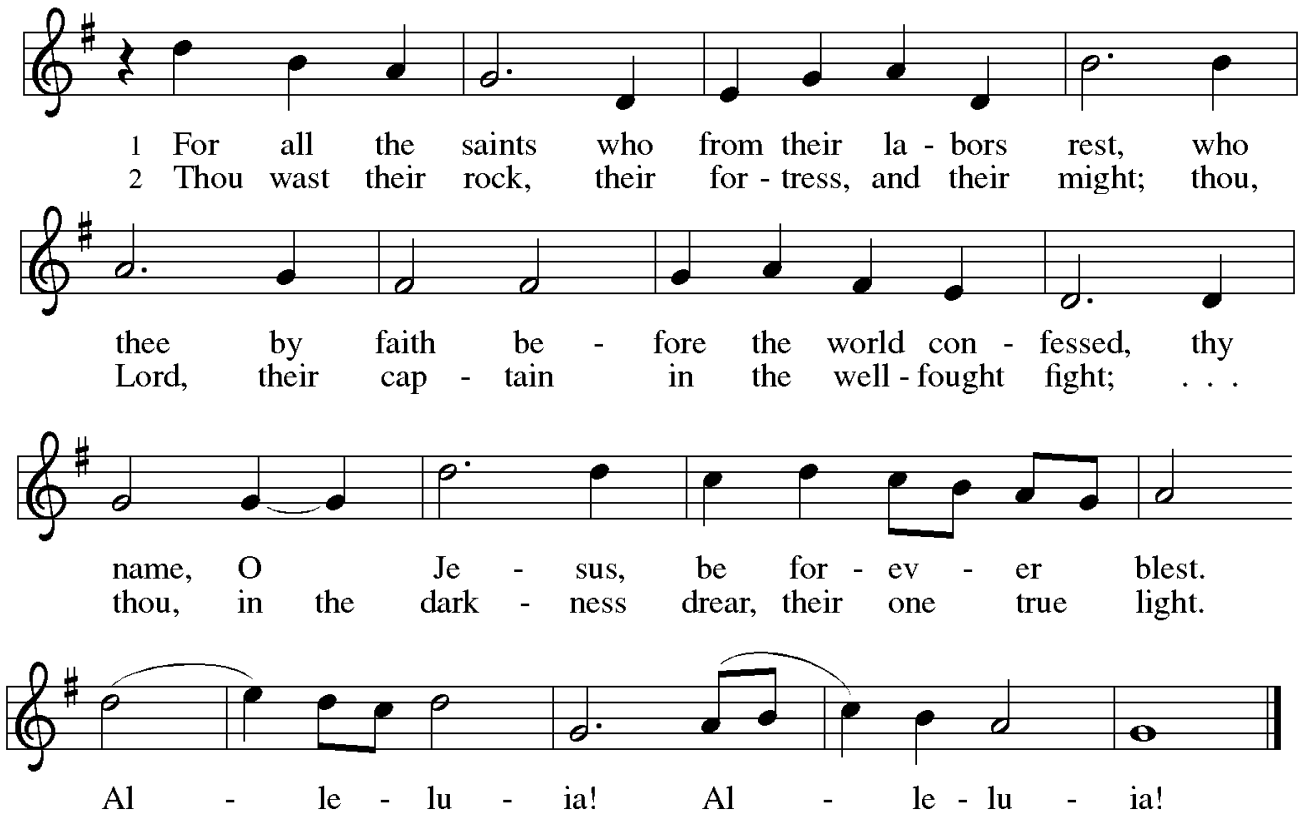
In peace, let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest,
let us give | thanks to the Lord.
Alleluia.

Hymn: "For All the Saints" verses 1-2



A bell rings three times

These are the saints who kept God's word; they are the honored of the Lord.
He is their prince who drowned their sins, so they were cleansed, restored.

Saints of the Church

Francis of Assisi, Dag Hammarskjöld, Chief Seattle, Bernard of Clairvaux, John Donne, Thomas Aquinas, Hildegard of Bingen, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Elizabeth of Hungary, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Wesley, Johann Sebastian Bach, Teresa of Avila, Martin Luther King Jr., Florence Nightingale, Albrecht Dürer, Catherine Winkworth, Perpetua and Felicity, Toyohiko Kagawa, Søren Kierkegaard, Birgitta of Sweden, Augustine of Hippo, Isaac Watts, Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena, Jehu Jones, Vine Deloria Jr., Oscar Romero.

Litany *sung as before*

For public servants, the government and those who protect us,
that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed,
let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection
in this and every place, let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all servants of the church, for this assembly,
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,
let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For renewers of the church,
whose prophetic voices call us together around the gospel of salvation,
let us give | thanks to the Lord.
Alleluia.

Hymn: "For All the Saints" vs. 3-5



A bell rings three times

They now serve God both day and night; they sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring when they all sing with angels shining bright.

Saints of the Community

Mary Ellen Adams

Fred Binggeli (uncle of Roger Binggeli), Carol Ann Cronon (sister of Carl Clem), Tim Halle (friend of Peter Pinch), Duke Katterheinrich (father of LuAnn Kimker), Kit Kresge (uncle of Peter Pinch), Miles McAdams - infant son of Kevin and Samantha (cousin of Hannah and Matt Burke, Dawn Osness (cousin of Catherine Sukow), Frank Raymond (father of Jen Biter), Rufino Rivera (uncle of Anthony Nederhoff-Rivera), Francisco Sanchez (father of Diana Dupuis), Louis Simon (father of Inpakala Pandian)

Litany *sung as before*

For this assembly, for all who have shared their lives and faith among us,
for all who have done good works in this congregation,
let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who teach and those who learn, for those who serve and share the gospel,
for those who are still to come, that faithfulness and service may abound,
let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

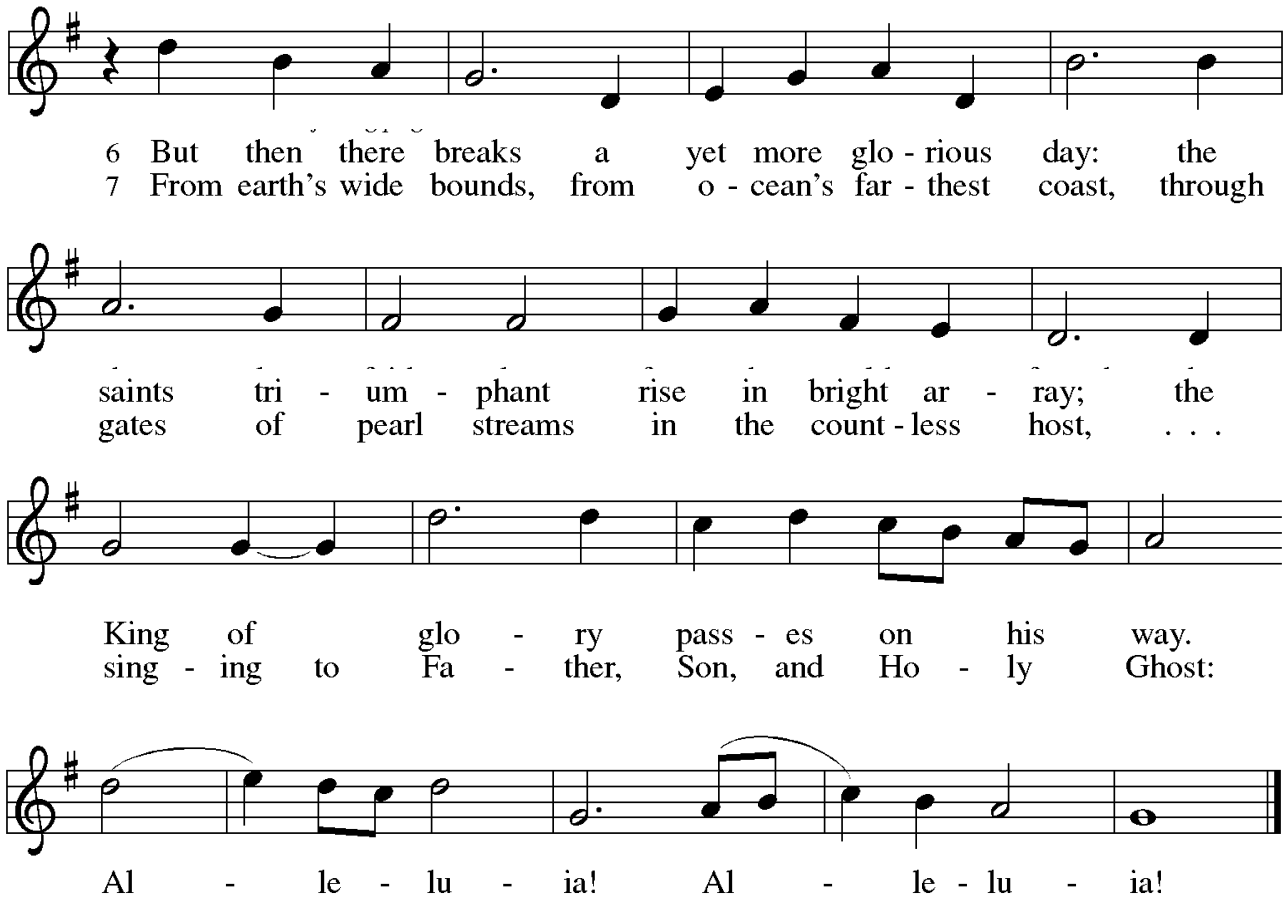
For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us | pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to | Christ our Lord.
To you, O Lord.

Prayer

Let us pray. O God, remember your church throughout the world. Make all its members grow in love for you and for one another. As you have received our sisters and brothers who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrec on to eternal life, bring us at last with them into the light of your presence, that in union with all your saints we may give you glory forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: "For All the Saints" vs. 6-7



Final Reading and Blessing

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. *(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

Looking to Jesus and surrounded by the cloud of witnesses,
may we live forgiven,
running the race God has set before us both now and to eternity,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Another way to collect the offering.

Our church provides both spiritual, physical and emotional nourishment for all who attend in person and online. We invite you to consider donating to support the mission of our church, as we work to support programs in the church, in the community, and for the online community.

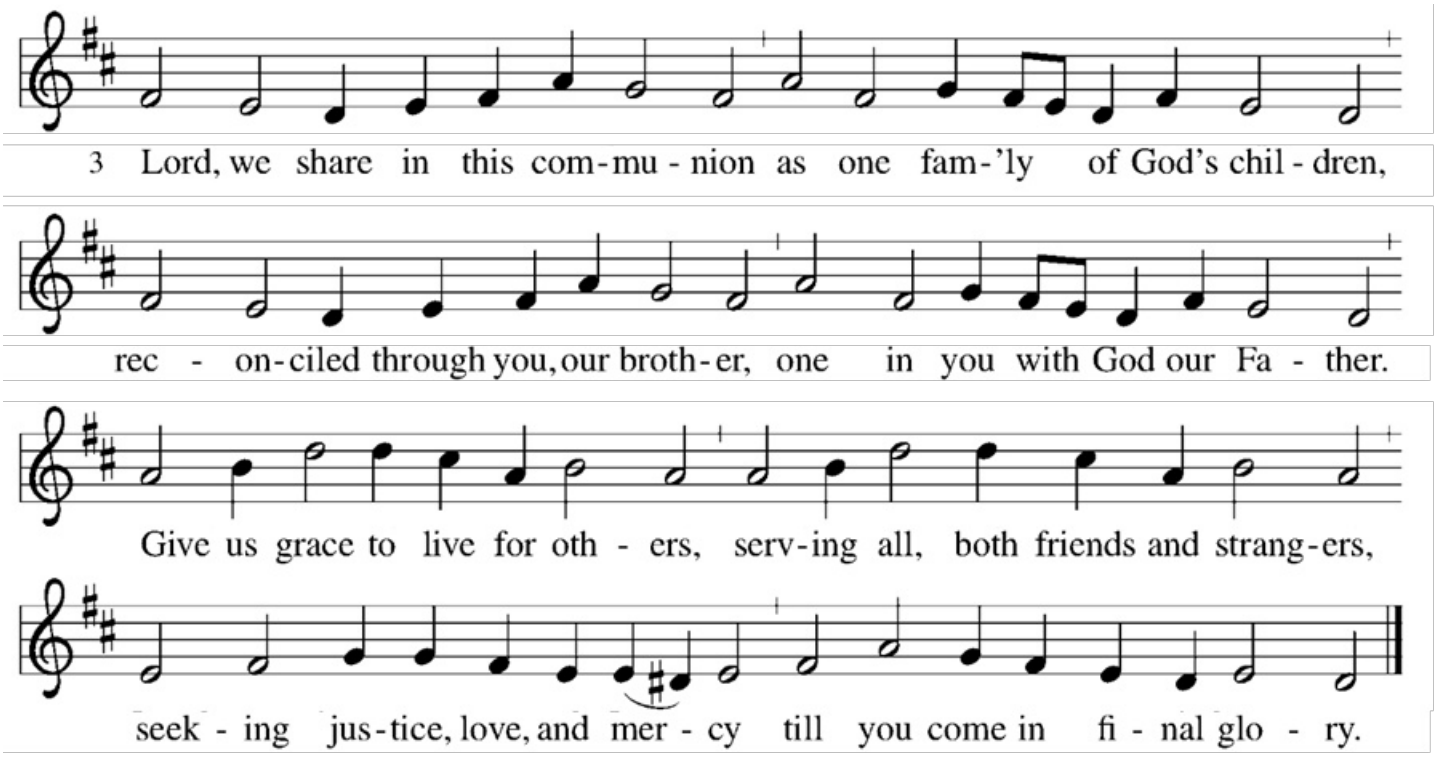
To make your offering through credit card, scan the code to the left.

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering

The congregation is invited to stand

Congregational Offertory



Offering 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.

About Communion

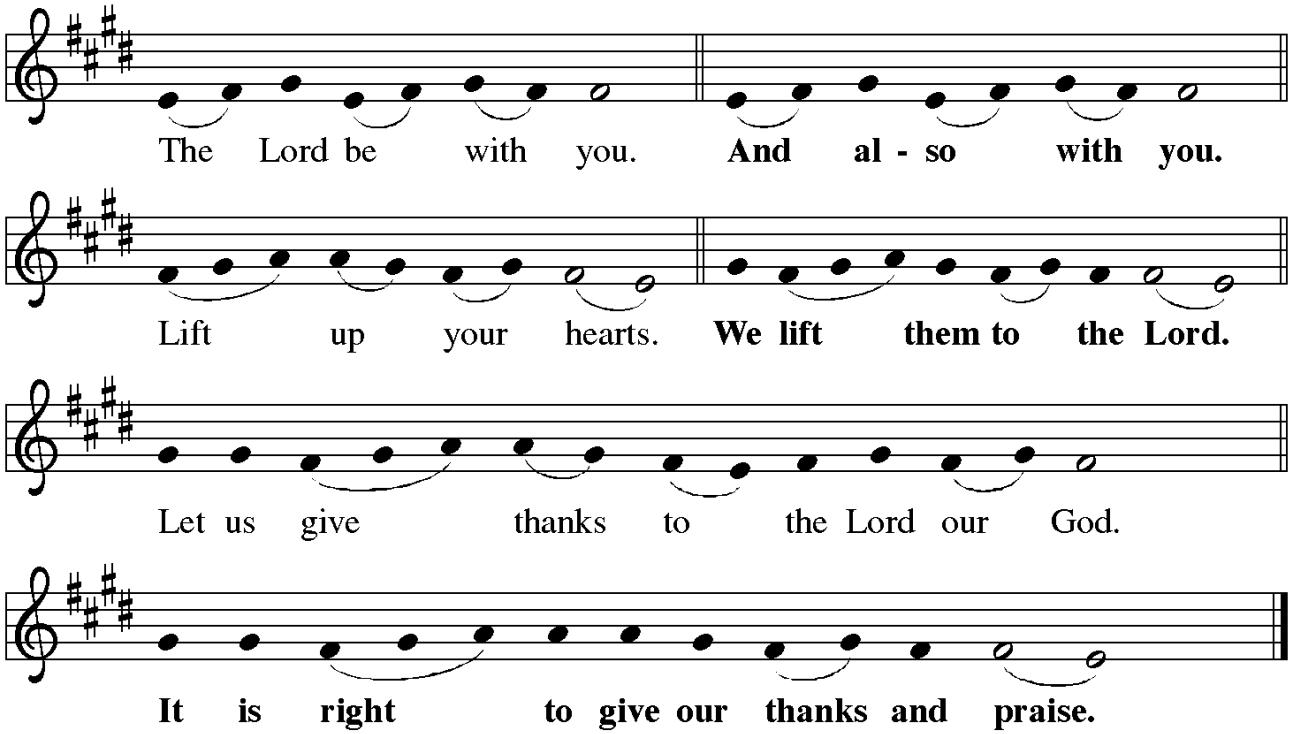
We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.

- An usher will direct you to come forward, and you may either kneel or stand at the altar rail.
- *Bread*: The pastor will place bread in your hands, which you may then consume. We have gluten free bread available; indicate to the pastor/vicar if that is your preference.
- *Wine/Juice:* the assistant will then offer a tray of individual glasses (juice in the center ring). The acolyte will follow with a tray for empty glasses. Also, you may skip the wine altogether trusting that Christ is fully present in the bread.
- Children and adults who do not yet commune are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing.
- If walking is difficult for you, please inform an usher, then stay in your pew and the pastor will come to you.

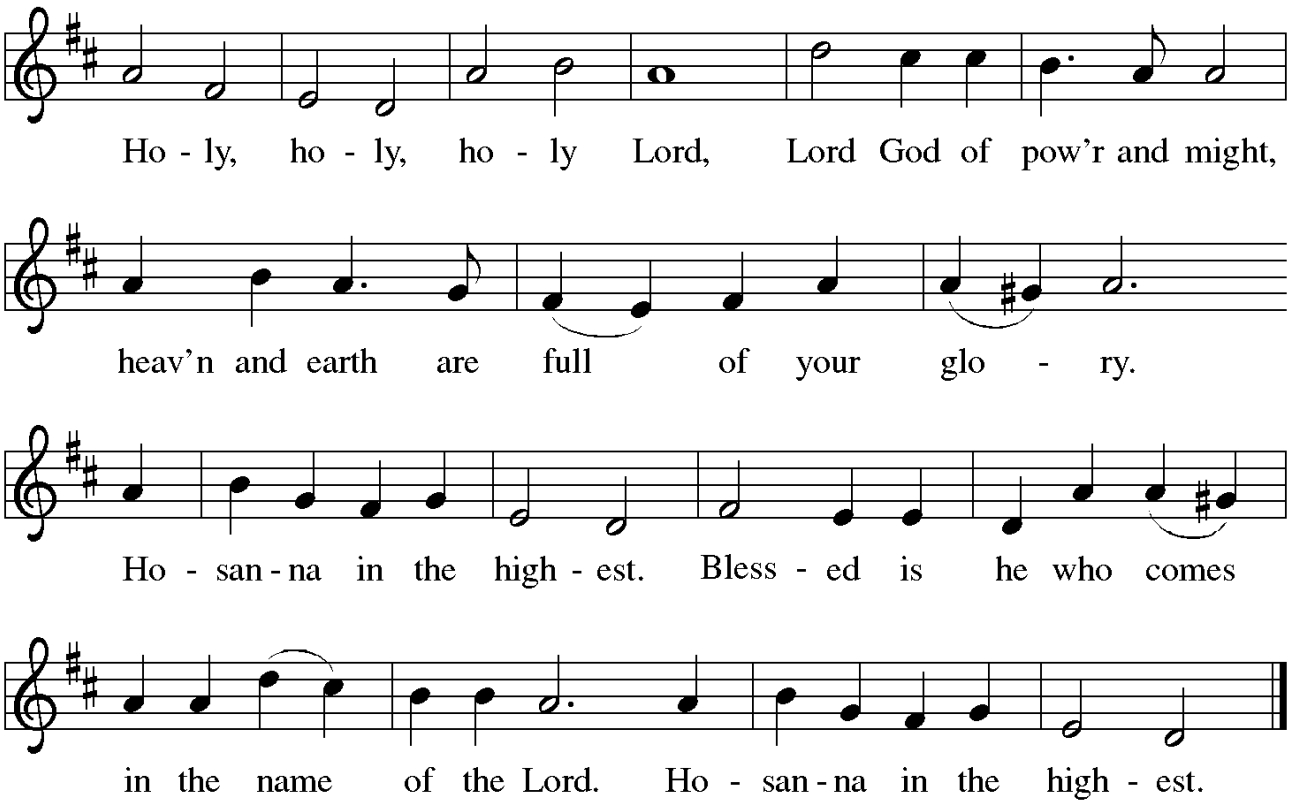
Sharing the Lord's Supper

The congregation is invited to stand

The Great Thanksgiving



Holy, Holy, Holy



Eucharistic Prayer

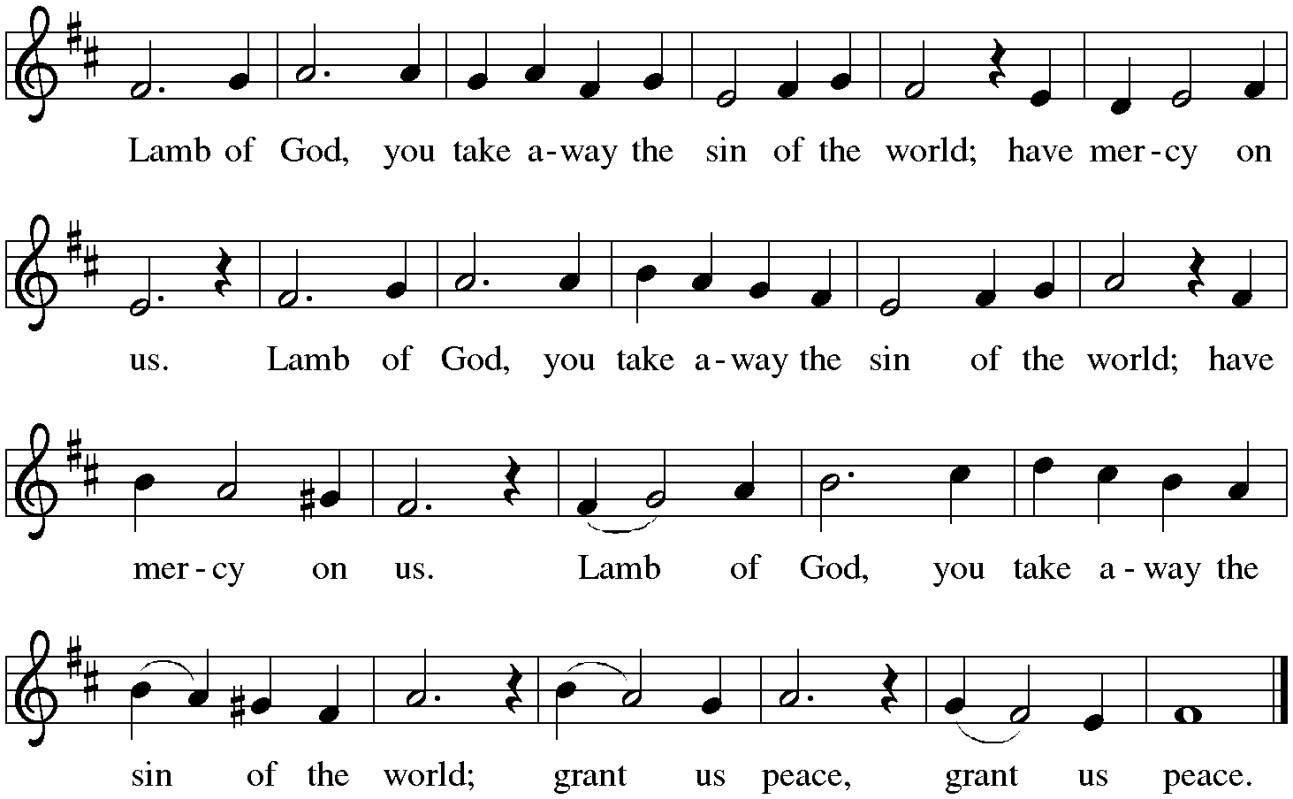
Lord's Prayer

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

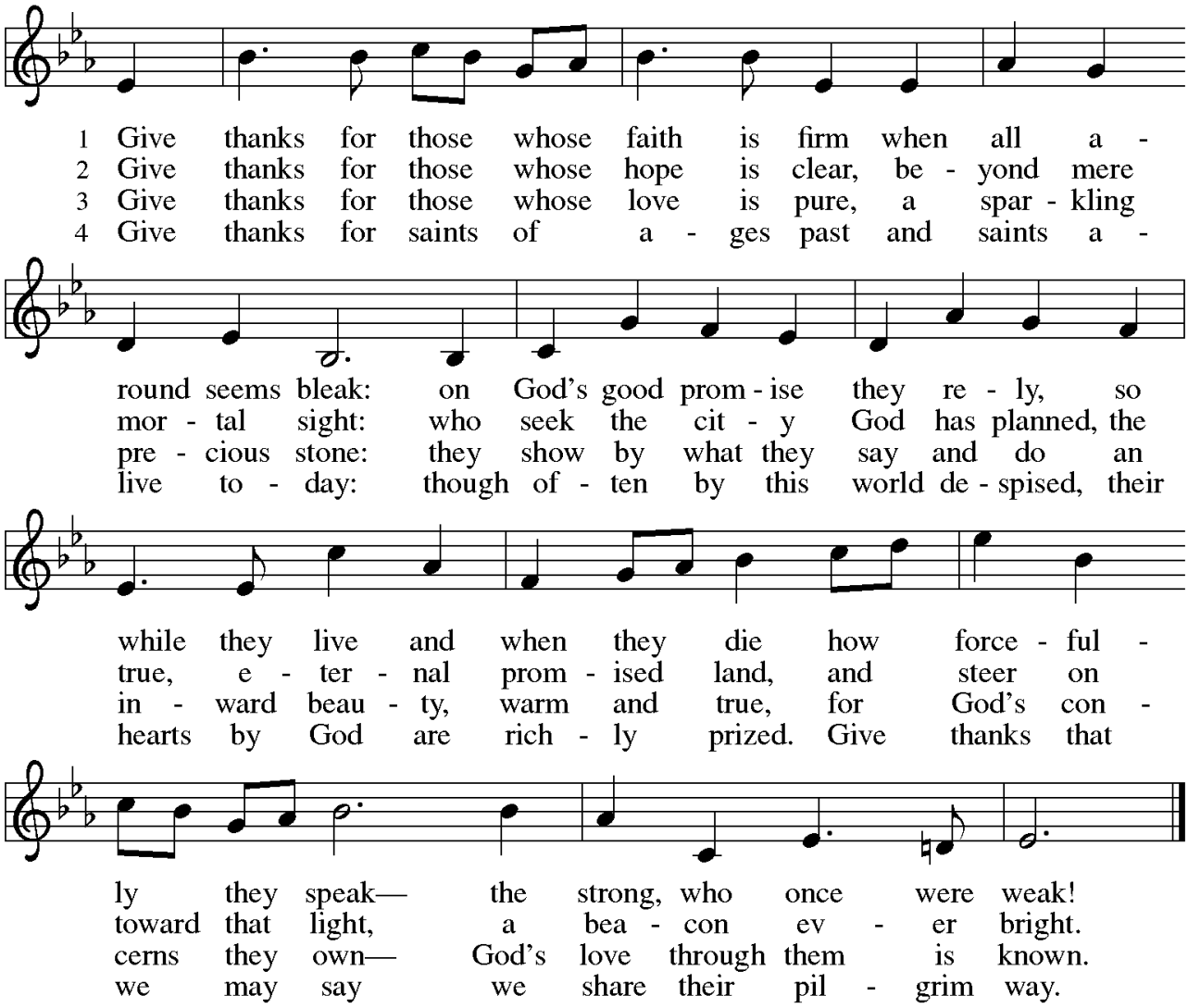
The congregation is seated

Lamb of God

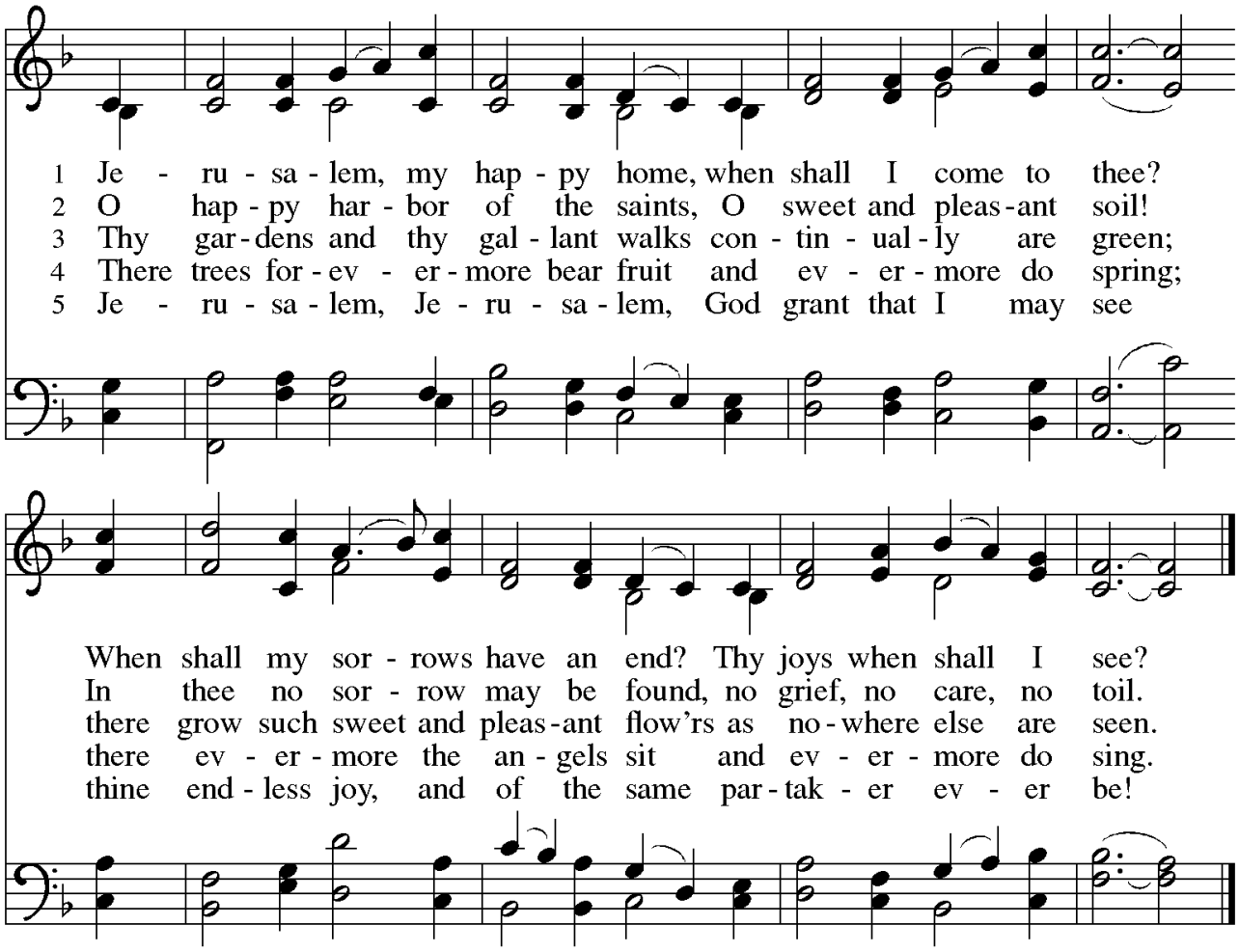


Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns:
"Give Thanks to the Saints"



"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"



The congregation is invited to stand

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

Sending Hymn: "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"



Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Psalm refrain and tone from *Psalter for Worship Year A* ©2007 Augsburg Fortress

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"Now We Join in Celebration"
Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

"Shall We Gather at the River"
Text and music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

"For All the Saints"
Text: William W. How, 1823-1897
Music: Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1872-1958 ©Oxford University Press

"Give Thanks for the Saints"
Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

"Jerusalem My Happy Home"
Text: F.B.P., 16th cent.
Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

"Sing with All the Saints in Glory"
Text:William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.
Music: William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947

Announcements

Pre-Election Evening Prayer - Monday 11/2 at 7:30 pm via Zoom: Come together with siblings in Christ from Lutheran congregations across the Boston Metro area to pray for just and fair elections, safety for poll workers and voters, the integrity of process, and the flourishing of all people. You can find a Zoom link in our "This Week from First Lutheran" email.

Cold Weather Kit Drive: During November we are collecting items to assemble Cold Weather Kits to share with guests supported by Chaplains on the Way. There are tags hanging from the Ficus tree now in Founder's Hall. If you are willing, please take a tag, purchase the items listed on the tag, and bring items to church by November 19. Kits will be assembled after worship on Sunday, November 22. We also welcome donations of winter coats and/or warm sweaters.

Blessing Box restocking: Twice a week we need people to check on our general blessing box - refilling it with items from Founder's Hall and occasionally emptying out some items. You can find a sign up in our This Week email. Thank you!

Coffee Hosts Needed! Can you help foster community by hosting coffee? Sign up in the Pearson Room or by using the link in the This Week email. First time hosting? We're happy to provide instructions.



First Lutheran's
Welcome Statement

Walking together in God's love, we rejoice in the diversity of God's wonderfully made children. We celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and non-binary people and all members of our human family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, faith history, economic status, education, family configuration, or immigration status. We renounce the sin of racism and all forms of discrimination. We welcome all to join us in worship, leadership, participation in rites and sacraments of the church, and fellowship on our journey of nurturing faith, doing justice, and serving all.