

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 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

Vicar

Jessi Labenski

Musician

Cynthia Niiler

Assistant Minister

Rachel Nederhoff-Rivera

Acolyte

Haven Waters

Lector

Brad Nederhoff

Ushers

Signe Johns

Leslie Waters

A/V

Curt Schroeder

Altar Care

Ann Sjodin

Counters

Joan Clemens & Meg Maehl

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: "All My Hope on God Is Founded"



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good - ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known,
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r,
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call



God a - lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 from thy store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
 one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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.

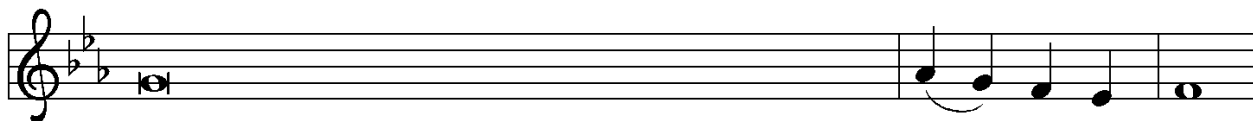
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



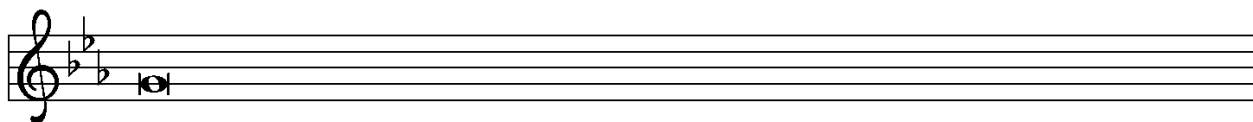
Lord, have mer - cy.



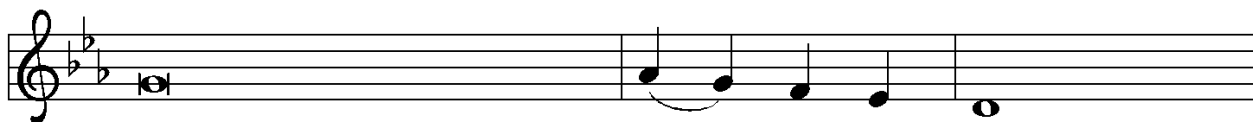
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



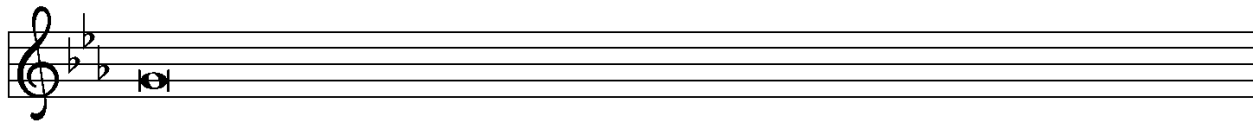
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



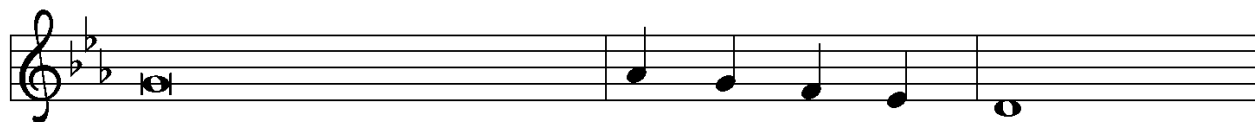
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

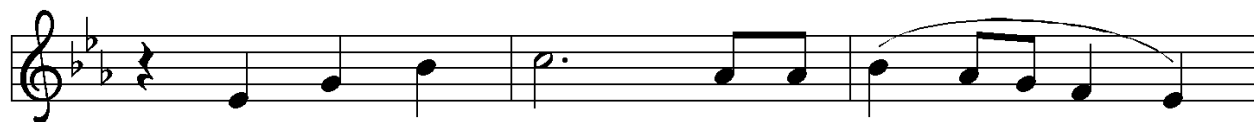


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

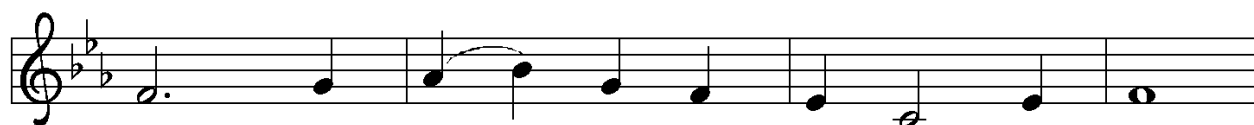


A - men, a - men.

Hymn of Praise



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



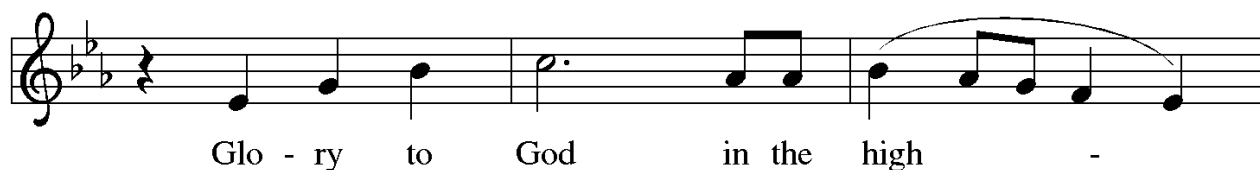
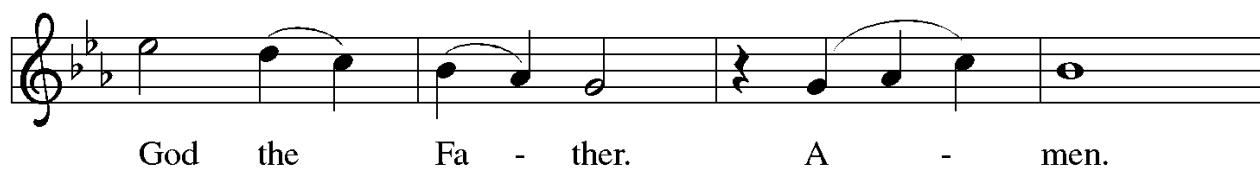
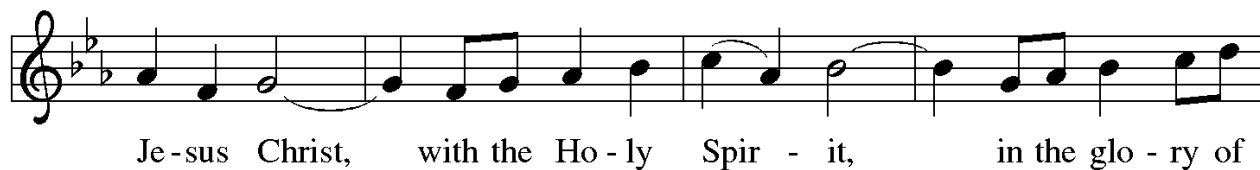
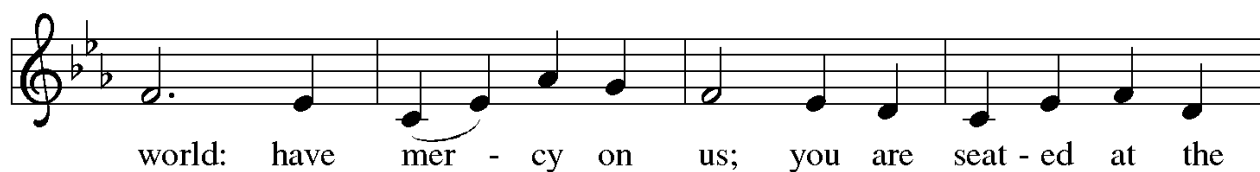
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



The Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

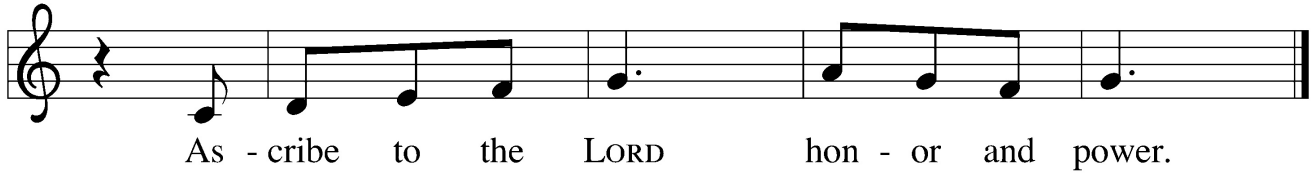
Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96

Refrain:



Tone:



Refrain

Sing to the Lord | a new song;

sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;

proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations

and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,

more to be feared | than all gods.

Refrain

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;

but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;

power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,

ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;

bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.

Refrain

Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;

tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved

will judge the peo- | ples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,

for you come to | judge the earth.

You will judge the | world with righteousness

and the peoples | with your truth.

Refrain

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

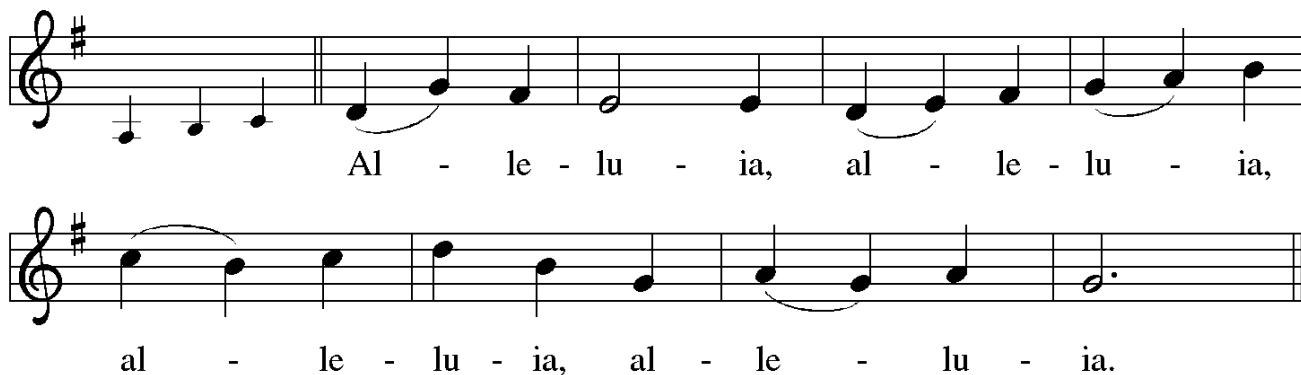
We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

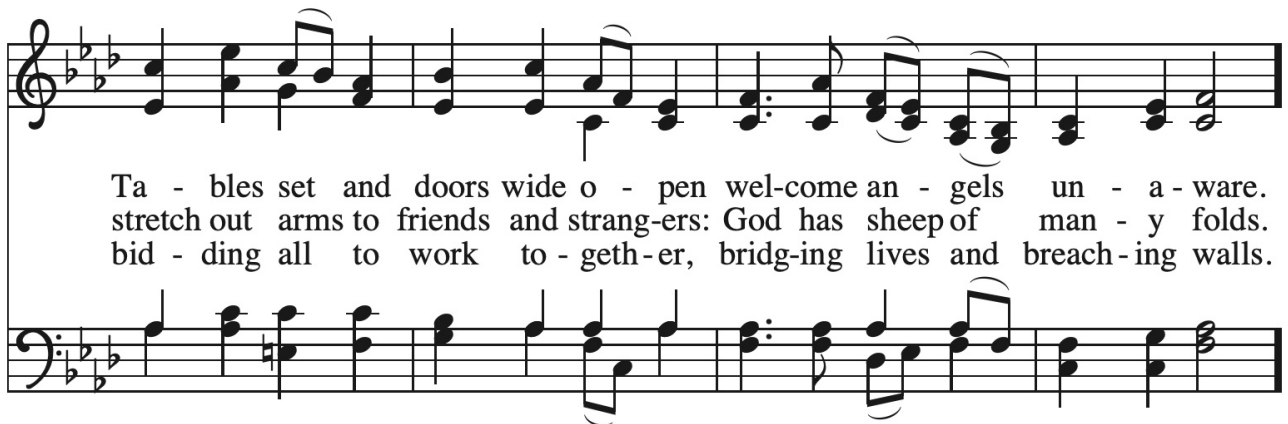
RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The congregation is invited to stand

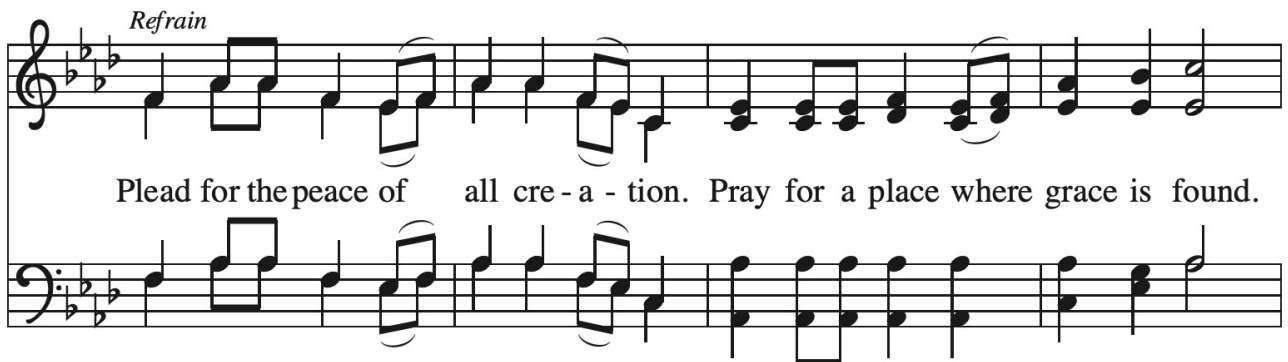
Hymn of the Day: "Commonwealth is God's Commandment"



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and stran-gers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Refrain
Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

This hymn's refrain includes words meaning peace from other religious traditions. Shanti (Sanskrit) is pronounced "shahn-tee" and is used in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Pax (Latin) is pronounced "pahks." Shalom (Hebrew) is pronounced "shuh-lohm" and means peace, wholeness. Maslaha (Arabic) is pronounced "muhs-lah-hah" and means reconciliation.

Prayer List

Members of our First Lutheran

Community: Glow, Bethany, and Roland Adams; Joyce Anderson; Jen Biter; Ardeith Froeberg; June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Lovequist/Shread family; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Kerry Meaney; Cynthia Niiler; Joan Niiler, Stacey Reed; Karson Sprague; Flavio Vallejos; Valarie Waters.

Friends and Family: Rhona Chen; Emily Dallman; Evan DaRos; Sheila Dumbrowik; Wendy Fournier; Lisa Fugger; Neil Galloway; Jay Higham; Josh Kalisa; Sylvia & Chris Lee-Thompson; Mark Lewis; Nathan Maehl; Pappas family; Roland Pesch; Rachel and sons; Lynn Reihart; Bill Sanderson; Brian Schmitz; Roger & Margie Schroeder; JoAnn Shade; Fay Sieving; Betsy Smith; Wilson Viertel; Chip Weinkauff; Jim Wroe; Marlys Yu.

For our partners: Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham. For other organizations we actively support: the Waltham Family School, the Waltham Community Day Center, Chaplains on the Way, WATCH, Camp Calumet, and ELCA World Hunger.

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 Intercession:

Response: Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation is seated

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering

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.



The congregation is invited to stand

Congregational Offertory



3 Lord, we share in this com-mu - nion as one fam-'ly of God's chil - dren,



rec - on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang-ers,



seek - ing jus-tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Offering Prayer

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.

Amen.

About Communion

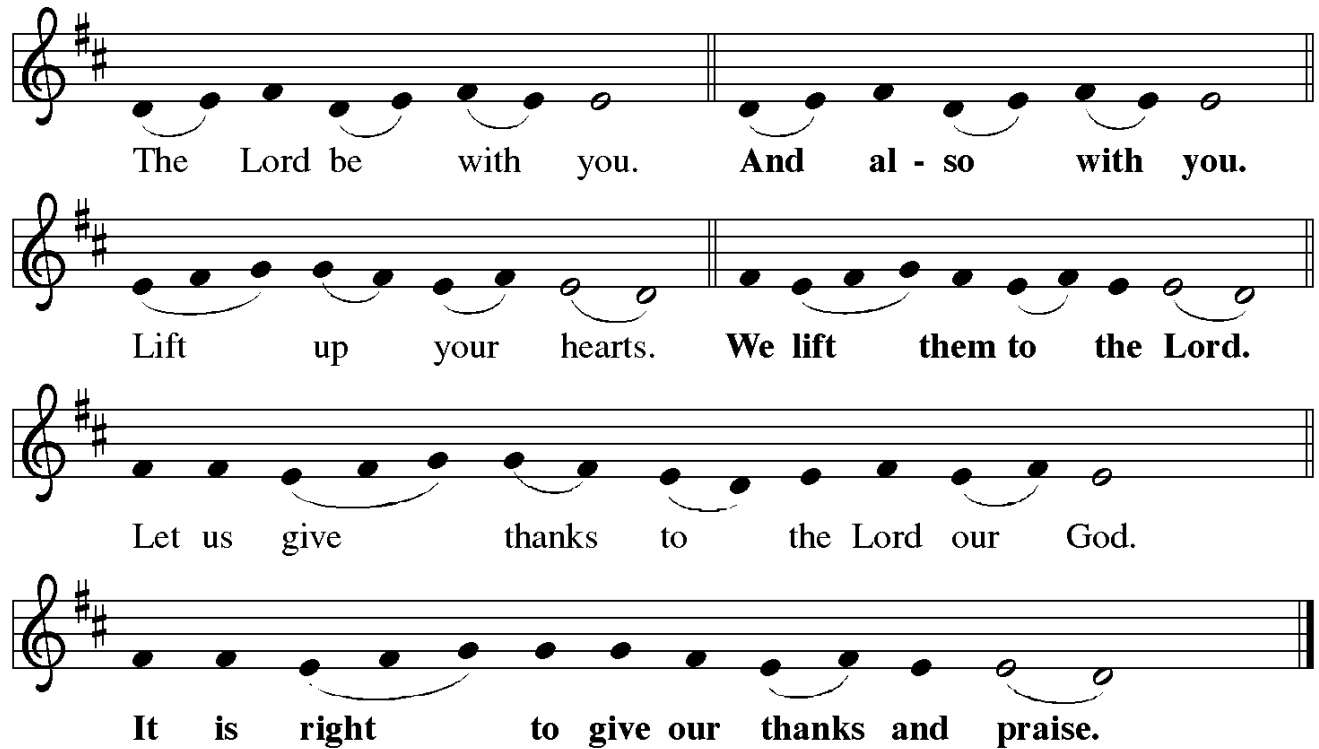
We believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine we share and therefore he is the host of the meal. In his name, we welcome all who desire to commune.

- 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



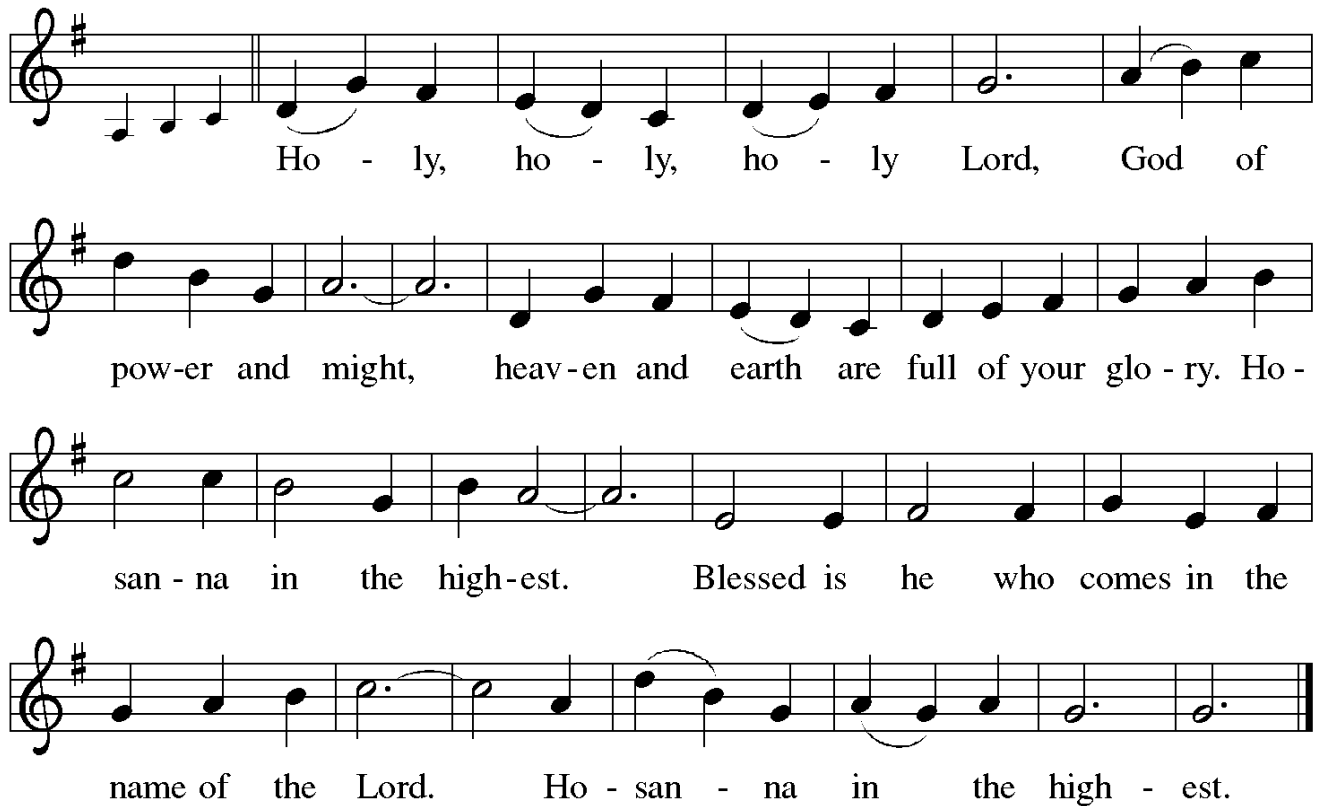
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

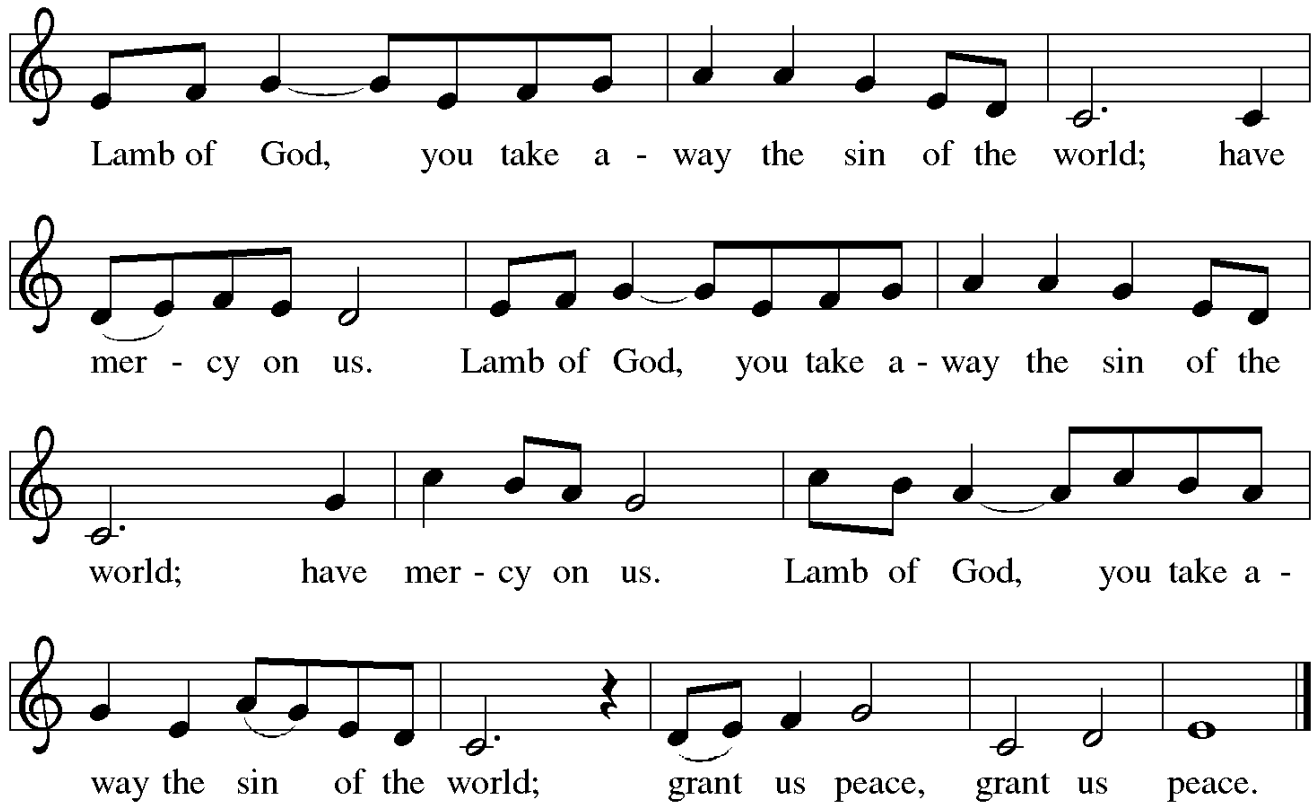
Lord's Prayer

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns:

"Bring Many Names"



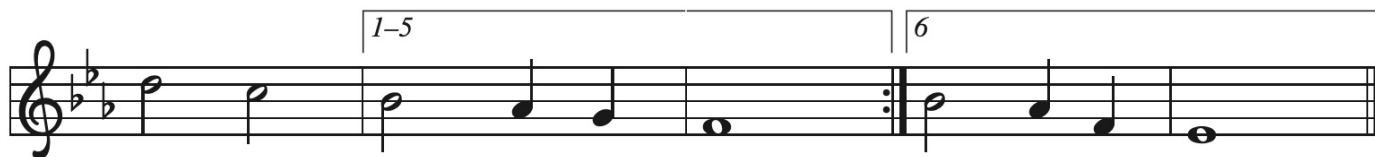
1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,
 4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -
 qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -
 giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -
 pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -
 jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -
 breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



san - na! Bring man - y names!
 san - na, strong moth - er God!
 san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 san - na, old, ach - ing God!
 san - na, young, grow - ing God!
 san - na,

6 great, liv - ing God!

"O Christ Surround Me"



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

The congregation is invited to stand

Post-Communion Prayer

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.

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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"Now We Join in Celebration"

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

"All My Hope on God Is Founded"

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983 © 1968 Novello & Co., Ltd., London

"Commonwealth Is God's Commandment"

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

"Bring Many Names"

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text and music © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me/O Christ Surround Me"

Text and music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967 © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

Announcements

Reformation Sunday Pot-luck Luncheon - Next Sunday, October 25 (following worship): During the luncheon we will have an update on our Fall stewardship appeal and our Centennial Campaign. Also, this will be an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed transition plan that would have us calling a co-pastor in the fall of 2027.

If you are able, please bring a pot-luck food item to share. Also, if you are willing, please bring a list of ingredients and/or note whether the dish is vegetarian and/or gluten-free.

Fall Adult Retreat to Vermont: Our annual Fall retreat in Londonderry, VT is scheduled for November 13-15. For more information see our weekly e-news or speak with Pastor Maehl.

Pledge Cards: If you are willing to make a financial commitment for 2027 please do so by October 25. Note that our finance team is estimating an increase of roughly 8% to our total budget due to rising costs in a variety of areas.

Blessing Box restocking: Twice a week we need people to check on our general blessing box - refilling it with items from the Pearson Room 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.

DROP OFF YOUR DRAWERS: UNDERWEAR DRIVE



PLEASE DROP OFF AT FLC BY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

We are collecting adult-sized underwear and tube socks for guests at the Waltham Community Day Center:

- Men's boxers or boxer-briefs of all sizes - brand new (no tights-whities)
- Women's of all sizes - brand new
- Tube socks of all sizes for all genders

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact
justiceandserviceflc@gmail.com



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.