Christ the King
November 22, 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
LuAnn Kimker
Acolyte
?????
Lector
Holly Diaz
Ushers
Holly & Ezra Diaz
A/V
Ted Sjodin
Altar Care
Catherine & Peter Pinch

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: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"



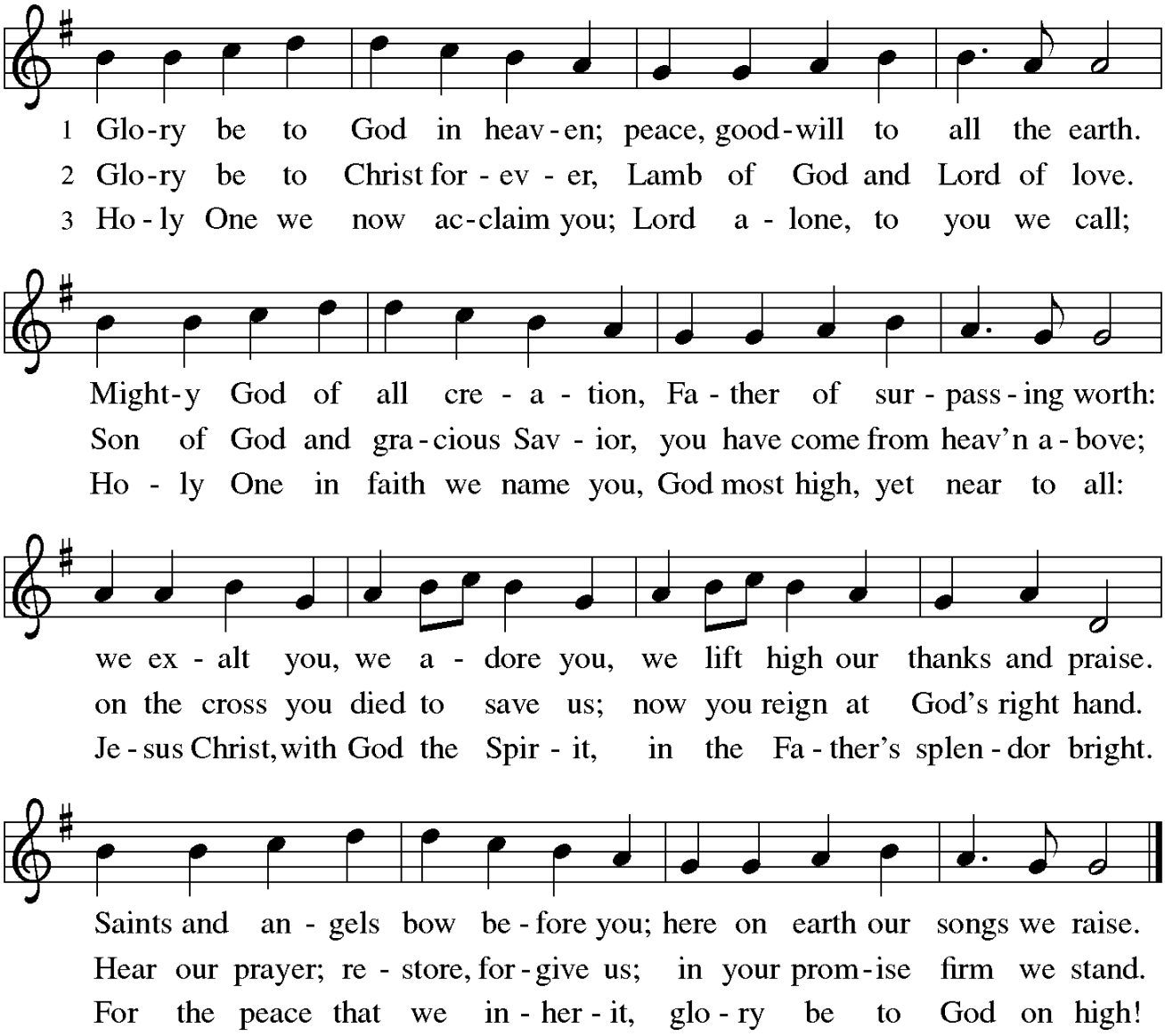
Greeting:

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



Hymn of Praise



The 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.

Hearing God's Word

The congregation is seated

First Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-15, 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.

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings
Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings
Come and rejoice in God's wondrous works; thank God and praise God with joyous psalm.
Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings

Know that the Lord is a mighty God, ruler supreme in the realms above.
Know that the Lord is a mighty God, ruler supreme in the realms above.
God is the Lord of the depths below; God is the strength of the mountains high.
Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings

God has created the depths below; God's own hands made the beauteous land;
God has created the depths below; God's own hands made the beauteous land;
gentle and kind, the good shepherd he; we are the sheep of his pasture land.
Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings

Come, let us bow down and worship God; kneel in the presence of God the Lord.
Come, let us bow down and worship God; kneel in the presence of God the Lord.
If you will hearken and heed God's word, you shall be glad and your hearts rejoice.
Come now, and lift up your hearts and sing, enter the courts of the King of Kings

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

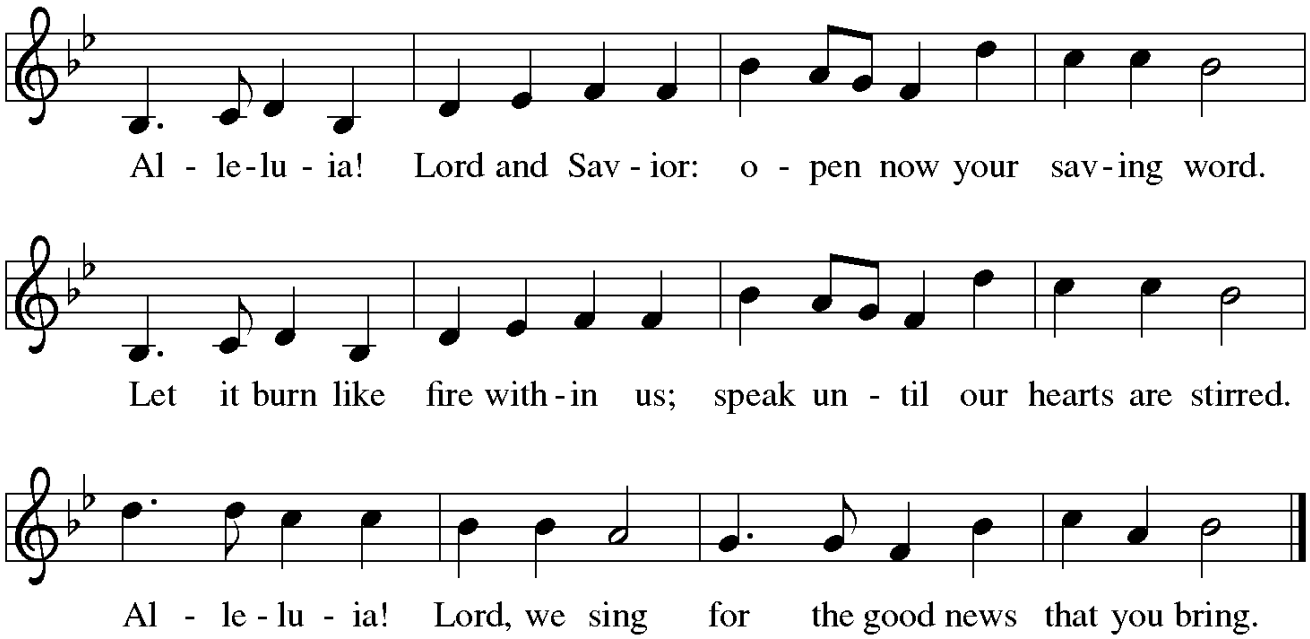
[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the

saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation is invited to stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
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.

The congregation is seated

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

The congregation is invited to stand

Hymn of the Day: "Come Now, You Blessed"



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: God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer**.**

The Peace

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

The congregation is seated

Prayer List

New: Rut Johnson

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; Lynn Reihart; Bill Sanderson; Brian Schmitz; Roger & Margie Schroeder; JoAnn Shade; Fay Sieving; Betsy Smith; Wilson Viertel; Chip Weinkauf; 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.

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.

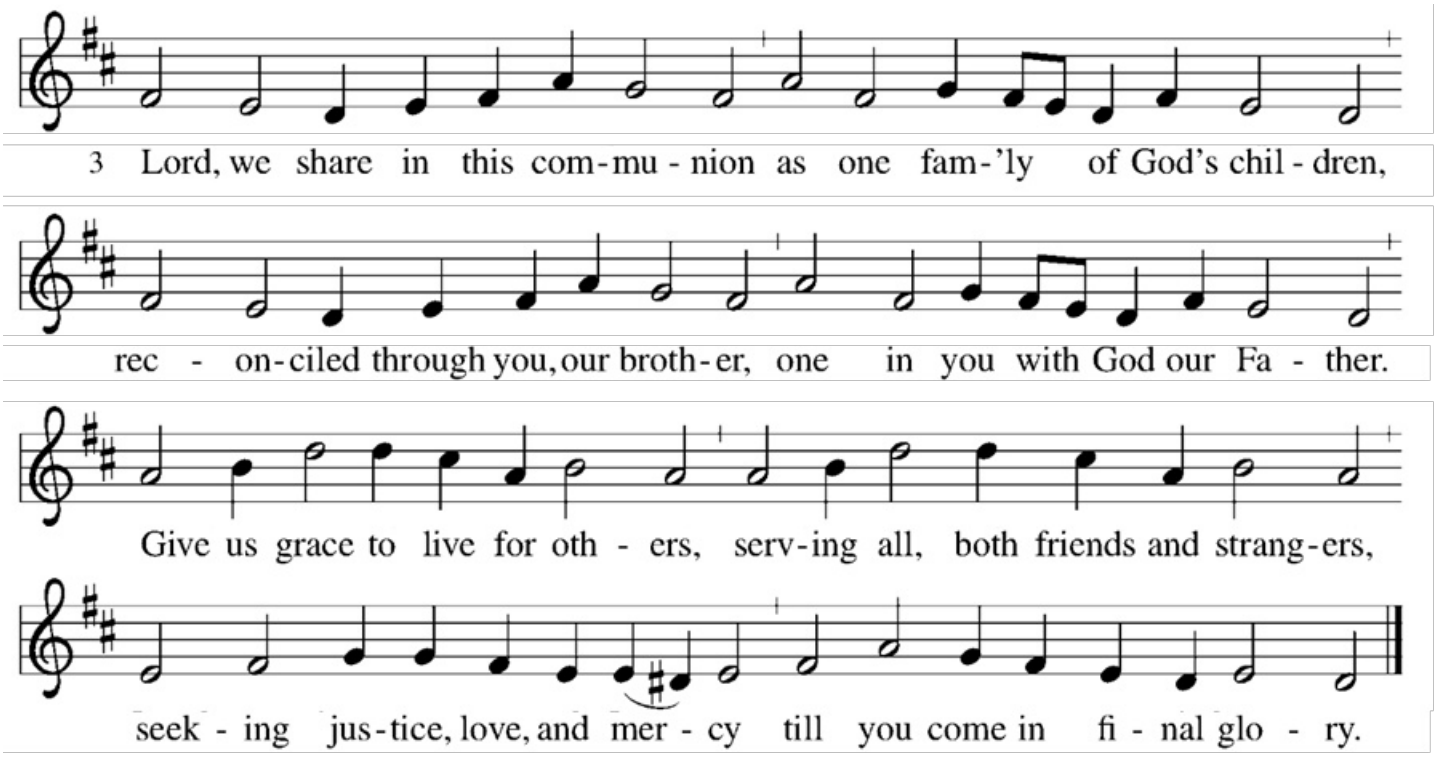
To make your offering through credit card, scan the code to the left.

Offering is Gathered

Musical Offering: "What Feast of Love" Delores Dufner OSB/Thomas Keesecker

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

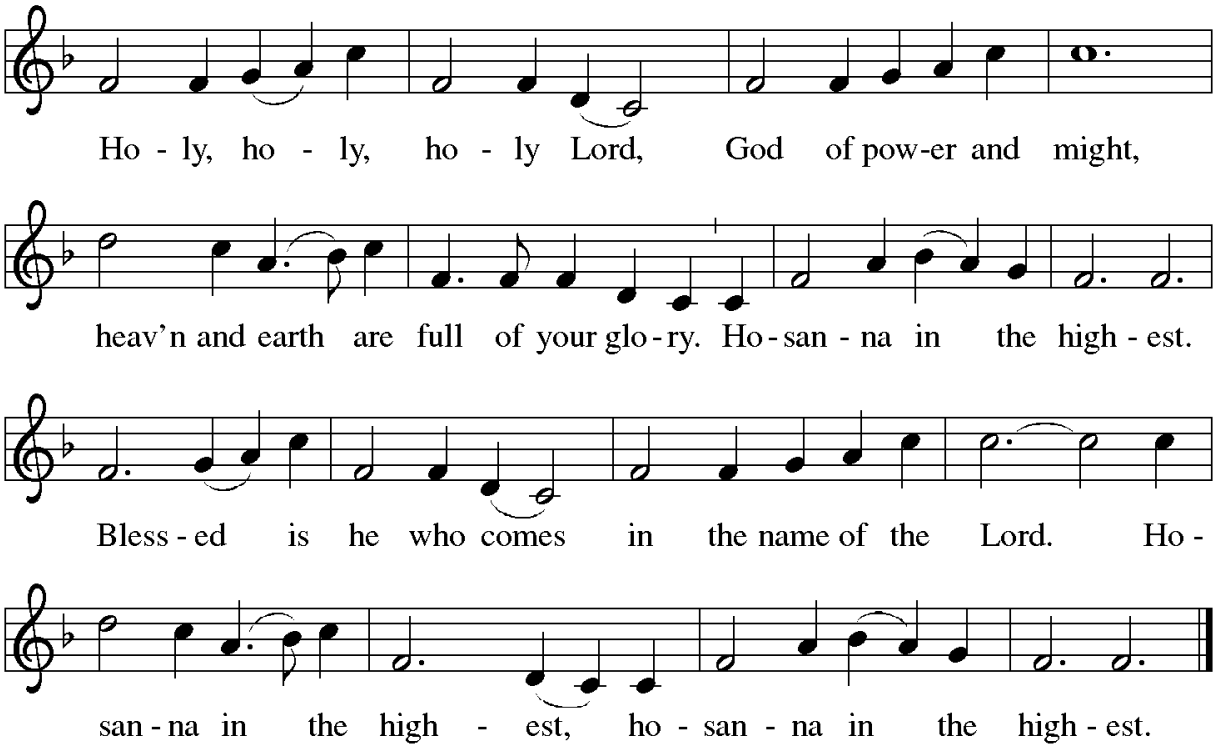
The Great Thanksgiving

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.

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

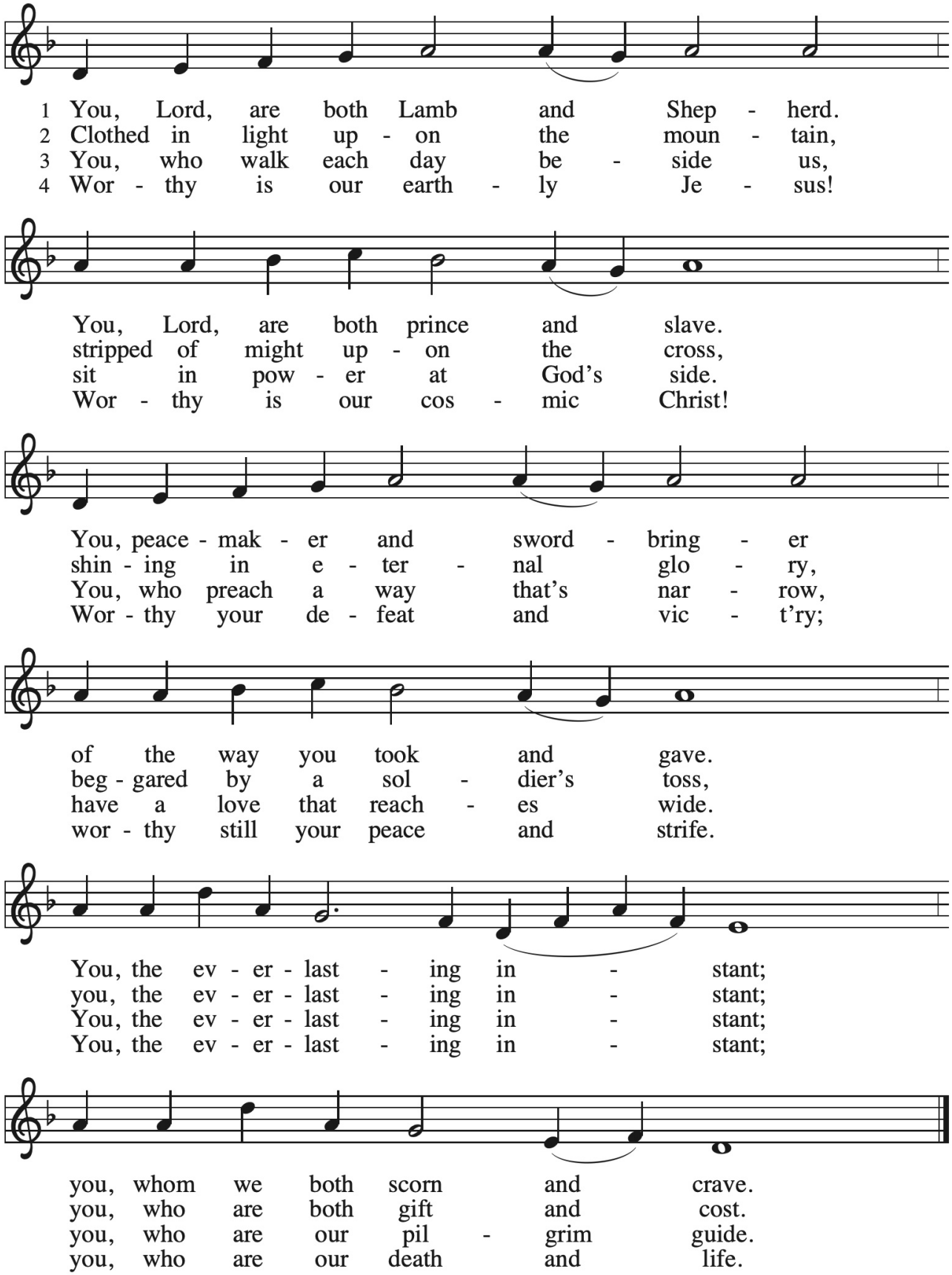
Lamb of God



Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymns:

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"



"Christ Is the Life"



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: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"



Dismissal

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

Postlude

Please join us downstairs for coffee following worship!

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Psalm: Words: anonymous; alt. James Minchin; Music: Karnatic hymn melody; arr. I-to Loh, b. 1936 © 1990, 2000 Christian conference of Asia. admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and Livestreamed with permission under OneLicense.net License Number: A-709997

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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4
Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

"Come Now, You Blessed"
Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Emily R. Brink, b. 1940 ©1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"
Text: Sylvia Dunstan, 1955-1993 ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.

"Christ Is the Life"
Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 ©1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music: Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991 © Oxford University Press

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"
Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts.1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6
Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

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"What Feast of Love"
Text: Delores Dufner, OSB © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB; admin. OCP Publications
Music: Thomas Keesecker ©2012 Birnamwood Publications

Announcements

To our guests, we welcome you and hope that you find worship meaningful.
Following worship, we invite you downstairs to our Founder's Hall for coffee and fellowship.

Cold Weather Kits: Join us downstairs after worship to assemble Cold Weather Kits that will be donated to Chaplains on the Way.

Christmas Sale - Giftable Donation Needed! On Sunday morning, December 6th we will be holding our annual Christmas sale with proceeds going to our Calumet Scholarship fund which supports summer campers and congregational retreats. Between now and December 3, we invite the contribution of giftable items (note this is NOT a yard sale; no furniture please); also handmade items and/or baked goods. Items may be left either in the pastor's office or in the basement "youth room."

Blessing Box restocking: Twice a week we need people to check on our 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.