Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

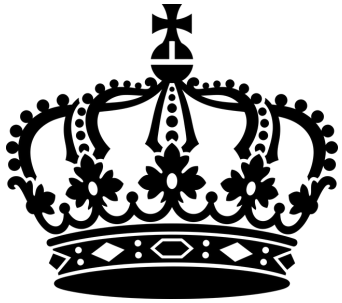


Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

Christ the King
Sunday, November 22, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession 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.

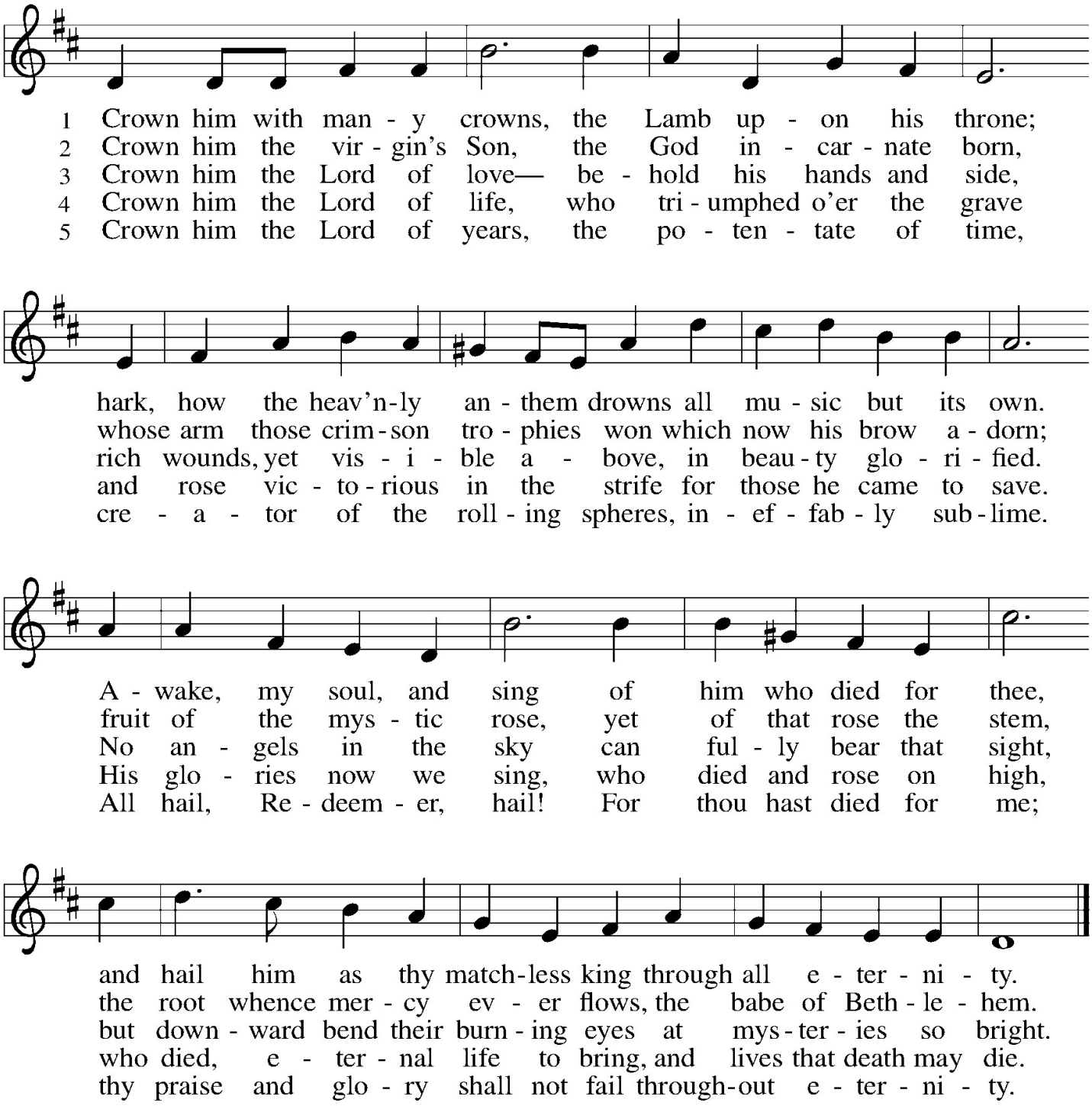
Holy God,

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.**

Opening Hymn ELW 855

Crown Him with Many Crowns



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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.



The First Reading
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 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.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Classical Offering
Performed by the Handbell Choir

Psalm 95:1-7a (NRSV)
Read Responsively

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy
to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence
with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

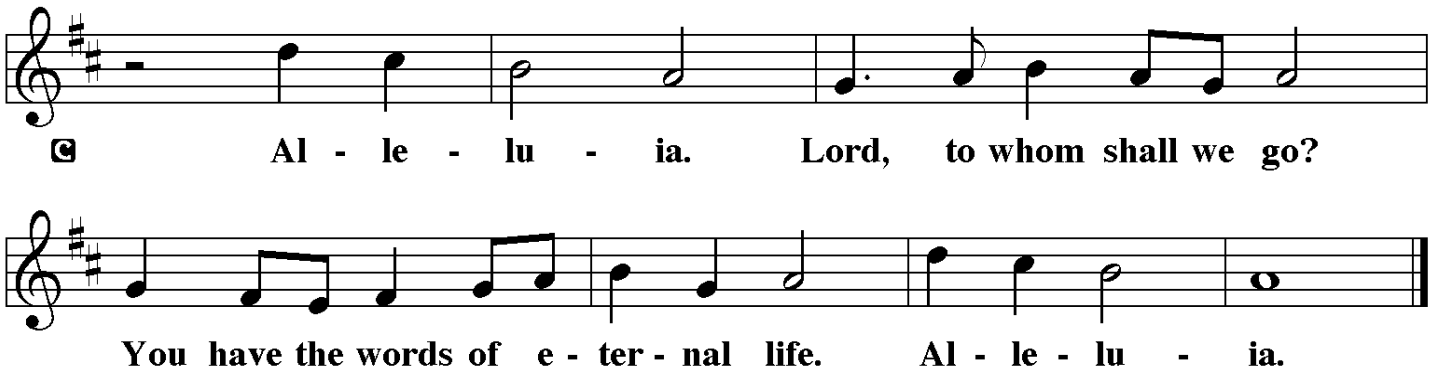
For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.

The Second Reading
Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 25:31-46
Glory to you, O God.
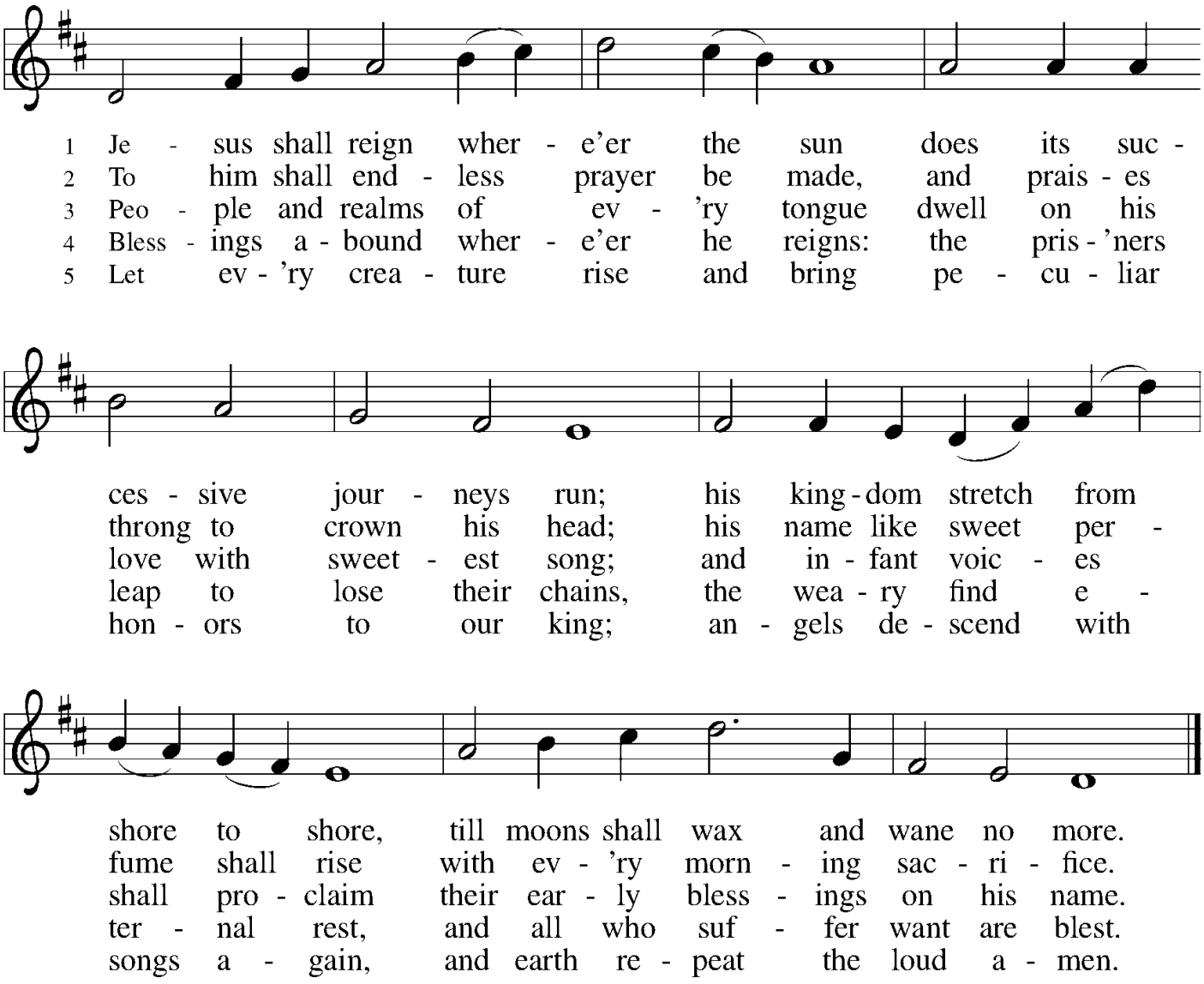
[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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, 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, 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.' 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 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.' 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, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.' 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?' 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.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day — LBW 530

Jesus Shall Reign



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Prayers of the Church

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

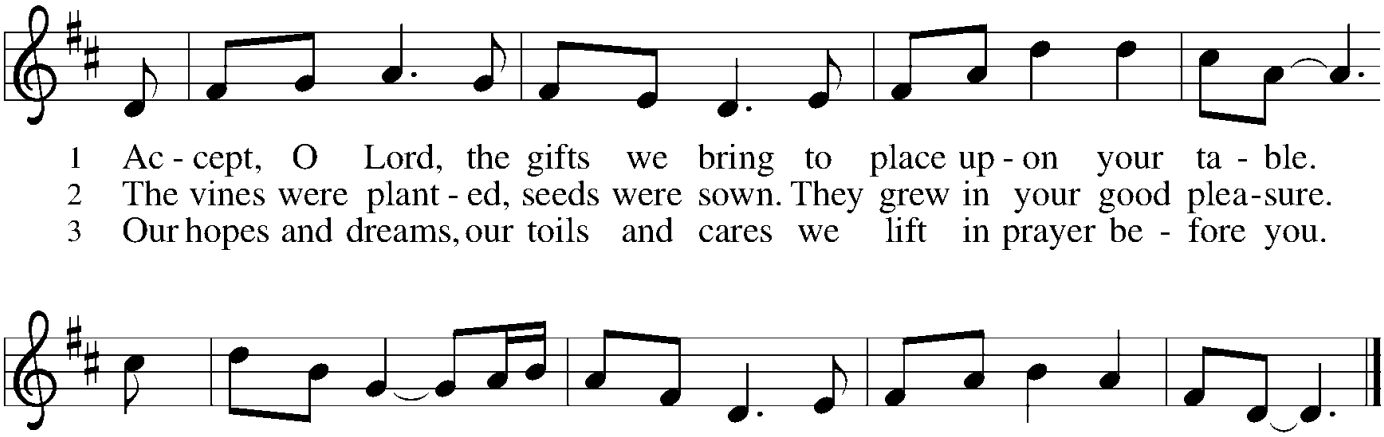
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

The Offering Music

The Offertory Hymn



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
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The Offertory Prayer

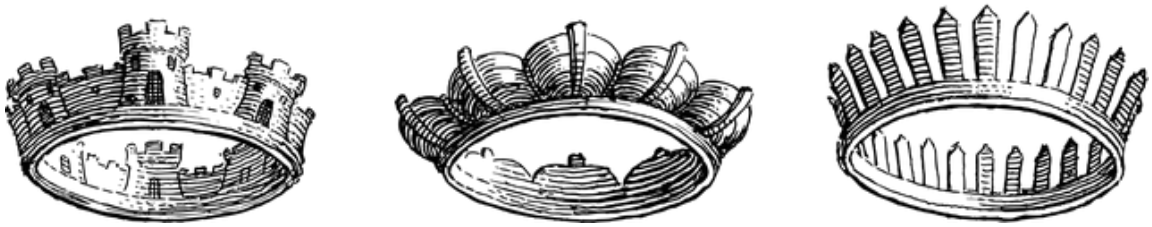
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

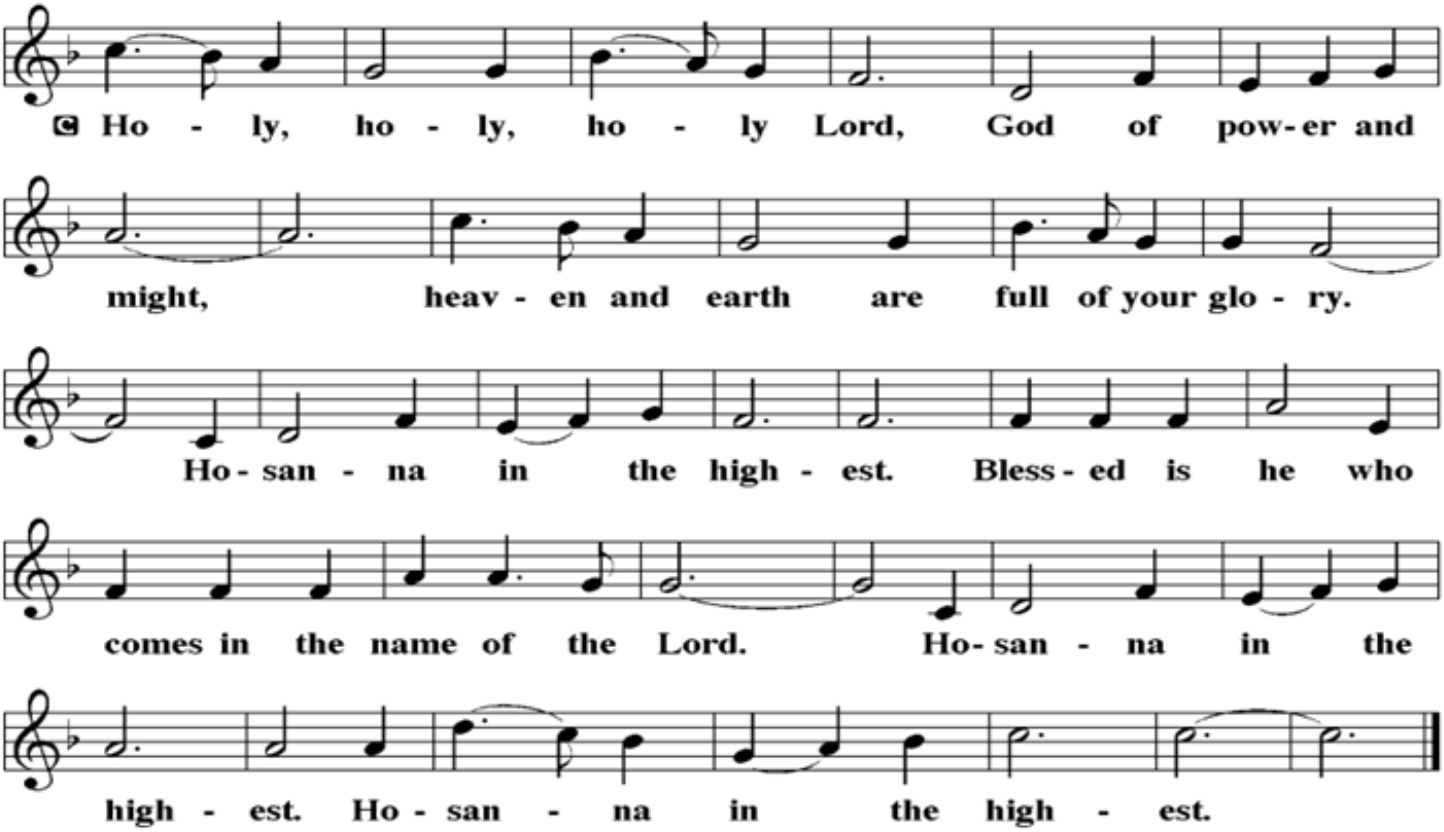
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Preface

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 hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Sanctus

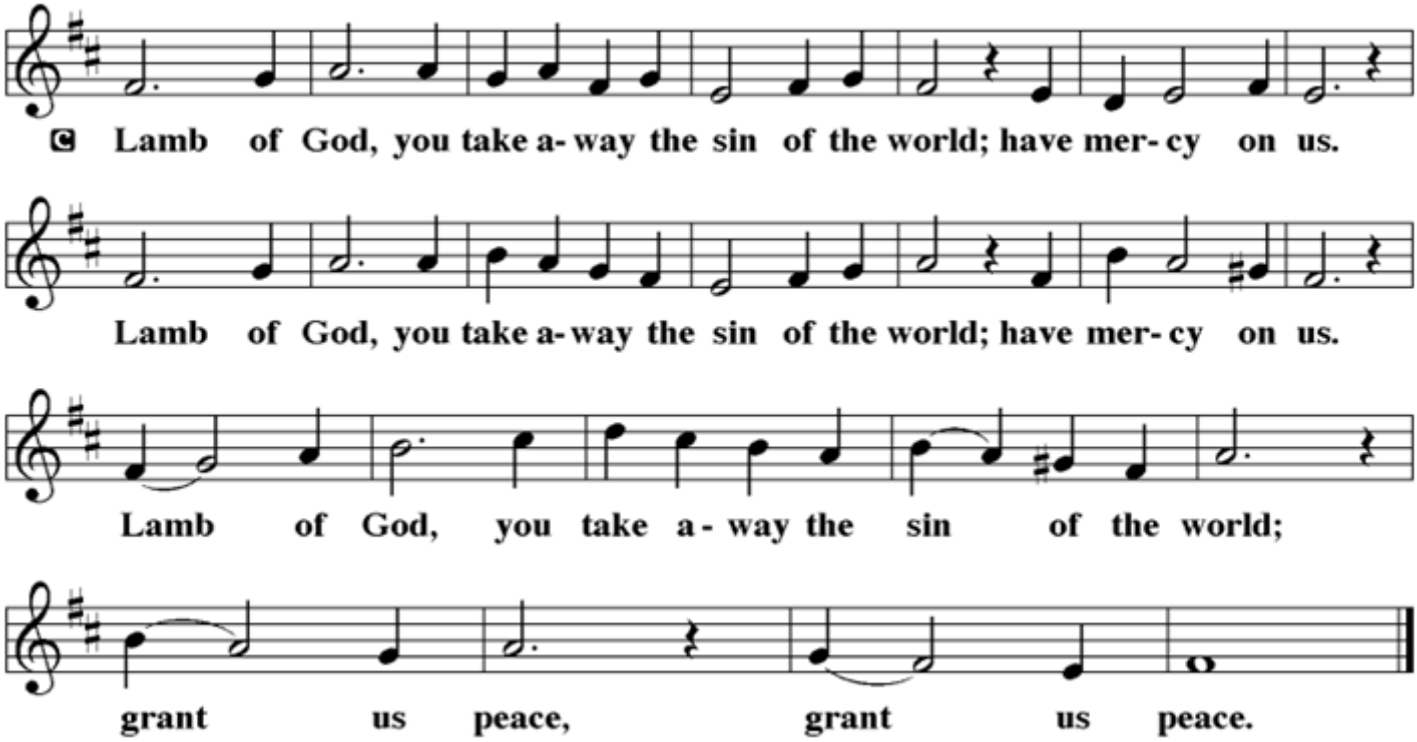


Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks He 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, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Invitation

The Lamb of God



Communion Music
LBW 212, WOV 709

The Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The 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.

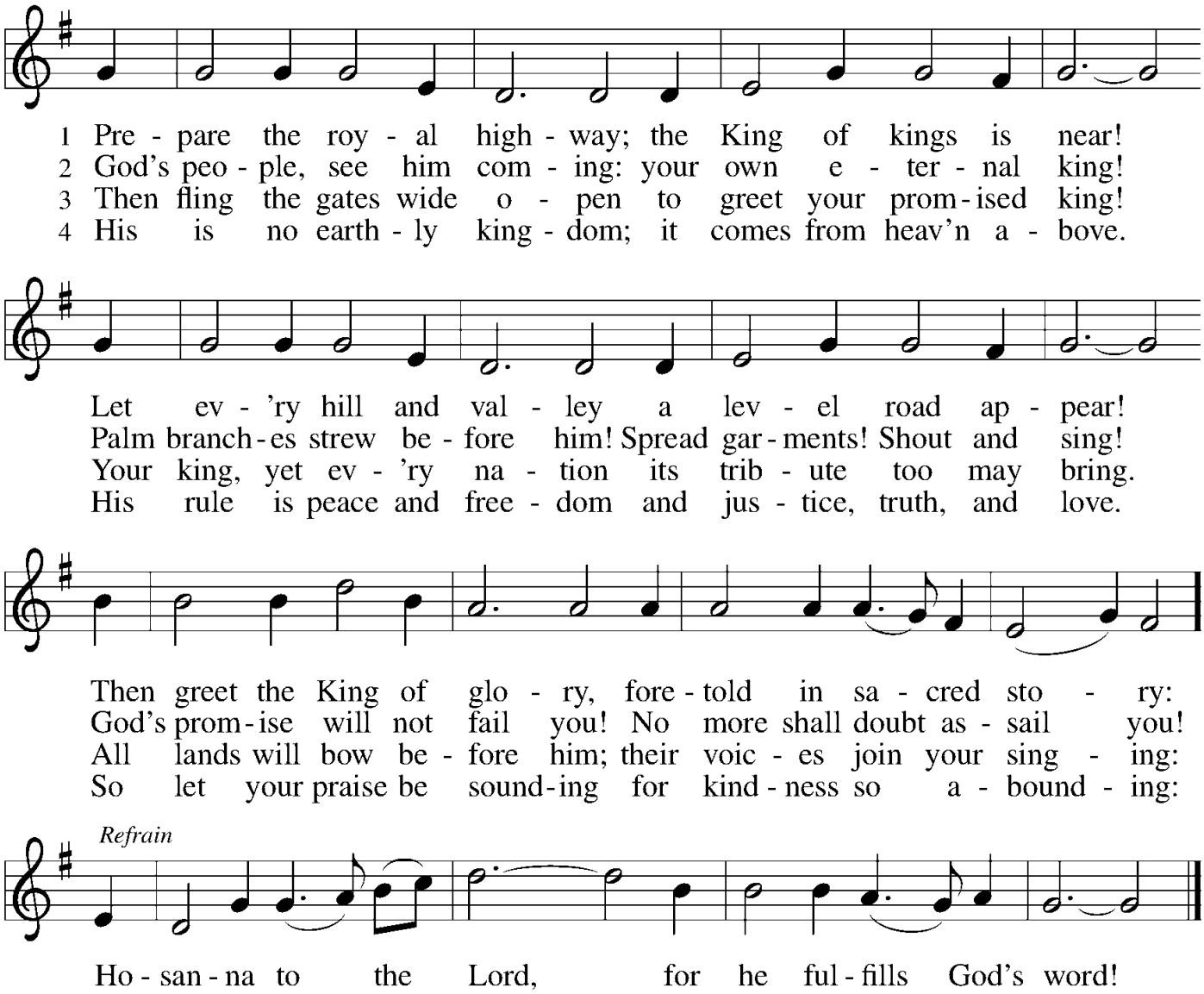
The Sending Prayer

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.**

The Benediction

Sending Hymn LBW 26

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The Sending
Go in peace. Encourage one another
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

Office Hours:
St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.
St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Altar Guild: RaeAnn Jakubowski
Deacon: RaeAnn Jakubowski
Ushers: Linda Costa & Kathy Burr

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to **St. John's donation page** where you can make a one-time or recurring **offering**! Thank you for giving!



Offering
11/15/2026
$2095.00

Quarterly Statements available upon request.
If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

We pray for: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Pastor Erik Hart, Ian Nowicki, Theresa, David Niebalda, Savanna, Judy, and the family and friends of Barbara Scarafia Wurthman and Melvinea Bummer.

It's **Angel Tree** time! Let's assist The Salvation Army in bringing some joy to children in our area this Christmas season. Tags will be available on trees both upstairs and downstairs, starting November 7th. Please take a tag from one of the trees and replace it with a star. You can purchase the gift listed (or something similar) and then place unwrapped presents in a gift bag with the tag securely attached to the outside. Additional gifts can be purchased, if desired. **Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, Dec. 6th**. There are also envelopes on the trees to donate cash or check (made payable to Salvation Army). Please place your envelope in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Thank you for your generosity! If you have questions, call the office.

Come join us in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing experience necessary! Tuesdays from 9:30am-1:30pm @ St John's, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs).

Winter is approaching and St John's is seeking a reliable company or individual to clear the sidewalks @ church. Please call the church office (716-683-8972) with contact information. Thank you!

There will be a funeral service for Melvinea Bummer here at St John's on Monday November 23rd @ 11am.

BOOK CLUB

Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on **Wednesday, December 9th at 2:30 PM** to discuss the novel, THE CALAMITY CLUB, by Kathryn Stockett.

Poppi's Pantry is serving this congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2**. Kindly consider donating time to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. Thank you!

Poppi's Pantry Thank you for the contributions towards our Thanksgiving dinners. We currently have an ample supply of canned vegetables, stuffing and cranberries. We still need boxes of instant potatoes, canned yams and canned/jarred gravy. Thank you!

There will be (3) **vacancies on church Council** at the end of this year and we are looking for members of the congregation to fill those positions. Members of the congregation are always welcome to attend Council meetings the last Tuesday of every month, and anyone interested in serving on Council may find it beneficial to attend a meeting. If you are interested, contact Pastor or Janet Sincebaugh.

Follow us on Facebook @stjohnslancaster

Altar Flower Arrangement: flower arrangements are $40 (for 2). Available Flower Dates: Nov 29; Dec 6, 13, 20, 27

Sieracki/Santucci Thanksgiving

It's that time of year again, and the Sieracki/Santucci family would like to share their blessings with an invitation to anyone who might otherwise be alone for the holiday. If you would like to join them, here at St. John's on Thursday, November 26th @ 4pm, please contact Kelly or the church office.

The women of St. John's Lancaster & Elma would like your help to collect **school supplies for The Teacher's Desk**. The Teacher's Desk is a store located at 22 Northampton Street Buffalo, NY 14209 where teachers shop free for school supplies, books, and teacher resources for students in 250 WNY schools in need.

List of supplies:

Tissues (full size boxes or small packs)
Pens, pencils, crayons, colored markers, highlighters
Elmer's Glue & glue sticks
Spiral notebooks (8 ½ X 11 and smaller size)
Hand sanitizer

Personal care items:

Combs, individually packed shampoo/creme rinse,
toothbrush, and travel size toothpaste

Boxes/baskets will be available at church to drop off any supplies collected. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Snyder. We will be collecting over the next several weeks and appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

LYMA Christmas Party Update

The LYMA Christmas Party will be held @ St John's on Wed Dec 9th from 6-10pm in the Fellowship Hall instead of at Skoob's. See the flyer for details, and contact Gary Rudz or Steve Kemna for tickets.

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, November 22, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Confirmation Class	11:00am- 12:30pm	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs

Monday, November 23, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Funeral: Melvinea Bummer	11:00am	Sanctuary
Poppi's Pantry	11:00am- 2:00pm	Downstairs Offc
Guiding Eyes	5:00pm- 7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Quilters	9:30am- 1:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Council Meeting	7:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Happy Thanksgiving		
Sieracki/Santucci Thanksgiving	8:00am- 6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 27, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Rudz Family	12:00pm- 6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 28, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, November 29, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	10:00am	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
YOUTH - Friendsgiving	1:00pm- 3:00pm	Fellowship Hall

'TIS THE SEASON

Salvation Army

Angel Tree

November 7th- December 6th

Take tag from tree
Replace with star
Purchase gift
Place unwrapped in gift bag
Tag securely attached
OR
Take envelope from tree
for monetary donation
Cash or check
to *Salvation Army*
Place in offering plate
Or turn in to Office





?'s call the Church Office

Deadline December 6th

Friendsgiving

November 29th @ 1-3pm

Youth Event

*Bring a Friend

*Bring a side to share

*RSVP by 11/22

Call or Text Kelly

716-868-3023



St John's Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086

Women's Christmas Fellowship

Wednesday December 2nd @ 6-9pm

Fellowship All Are Welcome!

Pot Luck Bring a Dish to Share

Gift Exchange Bring a Wrapped $10 Gift

St. John's Lancaster 55 Pleasant Ave.

716-683-8972

LYMA Christmas Party

Wednesday December 9th

6pm Cocktails * 7pm Dinner

@ St. John's Fellowship Hall

55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster

$30 per person - All Are Welcome!

Contact Gary Rudz or Steve Kemna

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides an inviting environment for spreading God's Word through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address the spiritual needs of our congregation and community. Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
Office 683-8972 (Mon-Wed-Thurs 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer
Tom Frost
Sam Gierlinger
RaeAnn Jakubowski
Marjorie Kruger
Jeff Miller
Rich Rice
Paul Rudz
Kelly Sieracki

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Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination (*places or events may be named*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need (especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Pastor Erik Hart, Ian Nowicki, Theresa, David Niebalda, Savanna, Judy, and the family and friends of Barbara Scarafia Wurthman and Melvinea Bummer). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**