

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

- 1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
- 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
- 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815



The Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you;
I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God;
we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

Psalm 23 (NRSV)
Read Responsively

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways
for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**



The Second Reading
Philippians 4:1-9 (NRSVUE)

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 22:1-14
Glory to you, O God.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

As We Gather at Your Table

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God,
we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune

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The Offertory 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.

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

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. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



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.

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

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.**



The Benediction

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

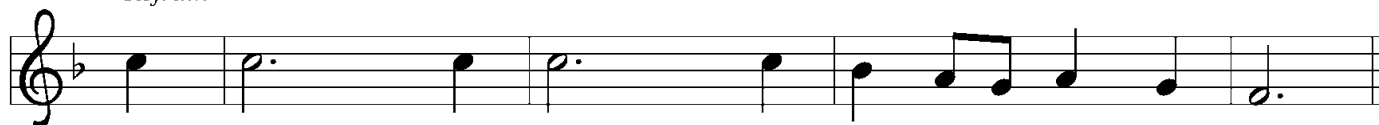


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
- 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
- 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
- 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;
 the wearied ones shall rest;
 the pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
 the Lord whom we adore:
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.

Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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The Sending

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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: John & Amy Petrunyak

Deacon: Kathy Snyder

Ushers: Janet Sincebaugh & Rick Tomaszewski

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

10/4/2026

\$2313.00

Quarterly Statements available upon request.

If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

We lift up: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvinea, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, Wayne Wolf, David Neiabala; Diane, Sandy & family, Rosie Cline, & Marcus Moen.

Family Promise - Donations Needed

Family Promise of WNY is an organization that works to prevent and end homelessness for families with children. St. John's will be collecting household items for their housewarming starter kit. Possible donations include any new or very gently used item that would be useful in an apartment. There are lists of suggestions at church. We hope to give Family Promise a wide variety of items! Donations can be brought in until October 18th and placed in the pews by the altar. Thank you!

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, October 28th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, DEAR EDWARD, by Ann Napolitano.

Altar Flower Arrangement: flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2). Available Flower Dates: Oct 18, 25; Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Save the Date

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner 2026
Tuesday, November 3rd from 4-7pm

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

Your generosity is very much appreciated! Gift cards from Amazon and Walmart are still needed to help provide for Paul's care. Envelopes are available around the church. Feel free to include a message to Paul. Prayers are always appreciated. Thank you!

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 is beginning to collect for Thanksgiving turkey dinners. We have plenty of vegetables and cranberries, but we need: canned yams, canned gravy, stuffing, and instant potatoes. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Ramp Fund The the St John's Lutheran Young Men association is sponsoring a ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Please use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thank you very much & God Bless! LYMA

B*I*N*G*O

Join us on **Friday, October 23rd** in the Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and prizes! Free to play, and all ages welcome!

Doors open at 6:30pm - bingo starts at 7:00pm. Bingo chips, drinks and snacks will be available

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.

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!

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.

November 8th Pastor will be leading a Scam Prevention Seminar following the service. Today there are many ways scammers try to reach out and deceive you into giving them money. Knowing what tactics they use and how to detect them can go a long way toward protecting yourself. In this one hour session pastor will cover common techniques used by the scammers, what to watch out for, and how to avoid being taken advantage of. We hope to see you there.

We are considering purchasing a **table of 10 for the upcoming LCLC Meat Raffle** and would like to see if there is enough interest to fill the table. If you would like to join us (18+ only), please **sign up by 10/30 to express your interest**. (Sign up sheet is located by the water cooler in the Memorial Lounge) Once we know how many people are interested, we will confirm whether we will purchase the table. We hope you can join us for a fun evening!

LCLC's Meat Raffle

Saturday, November 21, 2026

Venue Name & Address:

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 S Ellicott Creek Rd, Buffalo, NY 14228

Admission/Inclusions:

Tickets include entry, beer, wine, pop, water, and a large door prize entry.

Activities:

Win meat packages, purchase tickets for raffle baskets and 50/50 drawings, and play games.

Contact for Donations/Questions:

Reach out to Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@lclcenter.org or call 716-386-4125.

Women's Lunch/Fellowship

St John's Elma & Lancaster

Wed, November 18 @ 12pm @ Bruno's Restaurant
5259 Broadway, Lancaster NY Please sign up by Oct 30

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, October 11, 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
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

Monday, October 12, 2026

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

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Women's Lunch	11:30am	Olive Tree
Lancaster Garden Club	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall
LYMA Mtg.	7:00pm	

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Good News Articles Due		
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Bible Study	1:00pm	Chapel - Conference Area
Handbell Practice	6:00pm	

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Congregational Care Meals	12:30pm	Kitchen
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, October 18, 2026

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

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER 25TH FROM 4-6PM

Led By St. John's Youth

Decorate Your Car 3-4pm

Hand Out Treats 4-6pm

Enjoy Treats and Games

All Are Welcome!



St. John's Lutheran in Lancaster * 55 Pleasant Ave * Kelly 716-868-3023

LYMA Chowder Fest

October 25th

9:00am 'til Sold Out



St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster

SPAGHETTI DINNER

November 3rd @ 4-7pm

ELECTION DAY



DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT

St. John's Lutheran, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086



LCLC'S MEAT RAFFLE

**TICKET: \$15
TABLE: \$130**

Join us for LCLC's Meat Raffle! Enjoy an exciting night of fun, activities, and good camp community. All proceeds go directly to camp and our programming for Summer 2027.

NOVEMBER 21ST
6:00 - 9:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM, FIRST SPIN AT 7

This fundraiser includes:

- 12 round meat raffle
- raffle baskets
- 50/50
- queen of hearts boards
- open bar
- and more!



Event Location:

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall
45 S Ellicott Creek Road, Buffalo



Buy Tickets & Get More Info:

lclcenter.org/meataffle
kaitlyn@lclcenter.org

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

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Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (*regions in crisis may be named*) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Melvine, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, Wayne Wolf, David Neiabala; Diane, Sandy & family, Rosie Cline, and Marcus Moen). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.