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



## Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 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.
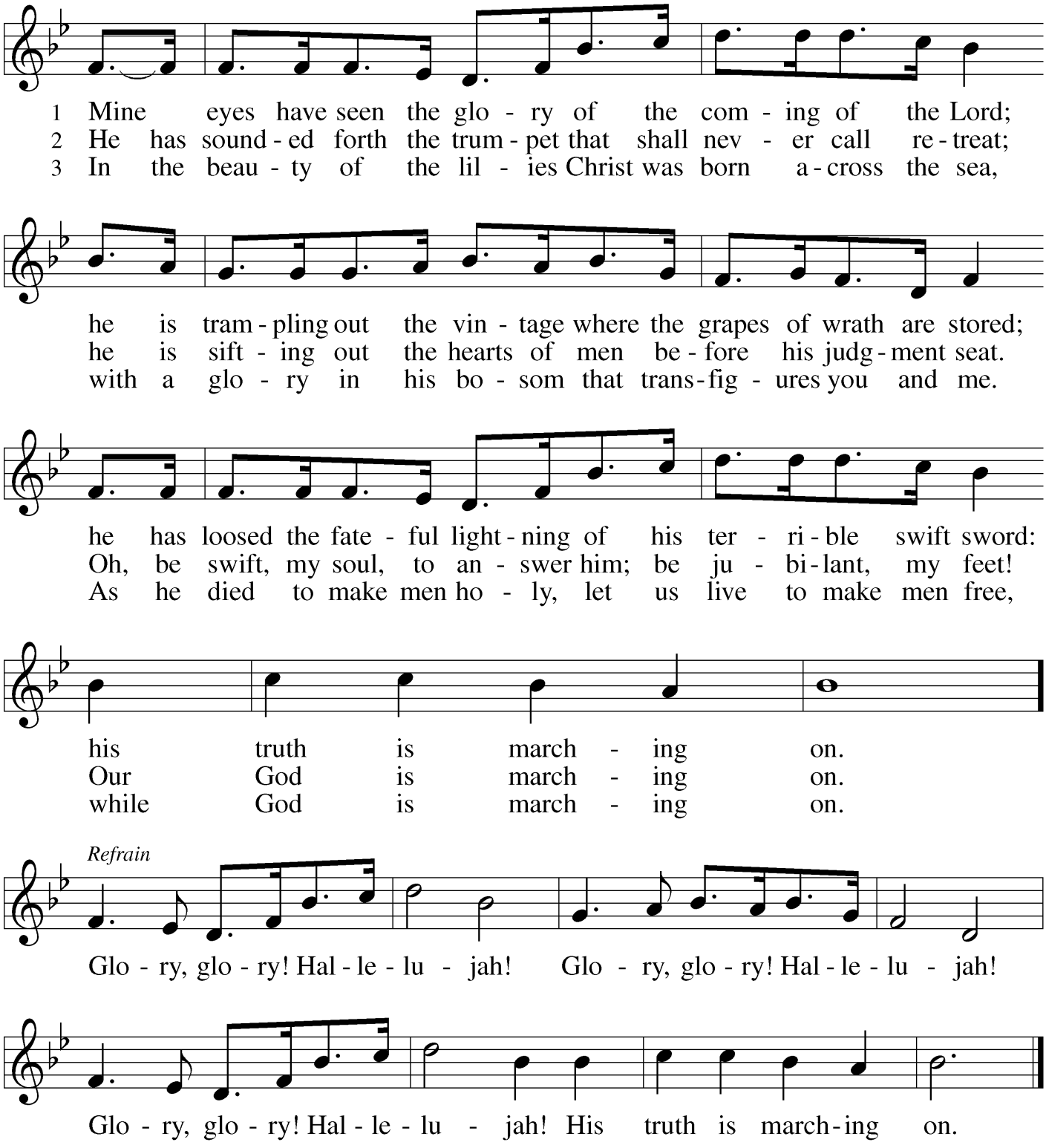
Holy God,

**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 LBW 332

## *Battle Hymn of the Republic*




Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, American, 19th cent.

The Prayer of the Day

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The First Reading
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth

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

Psalm 90:1-8, 12
*Read Responsively*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance**

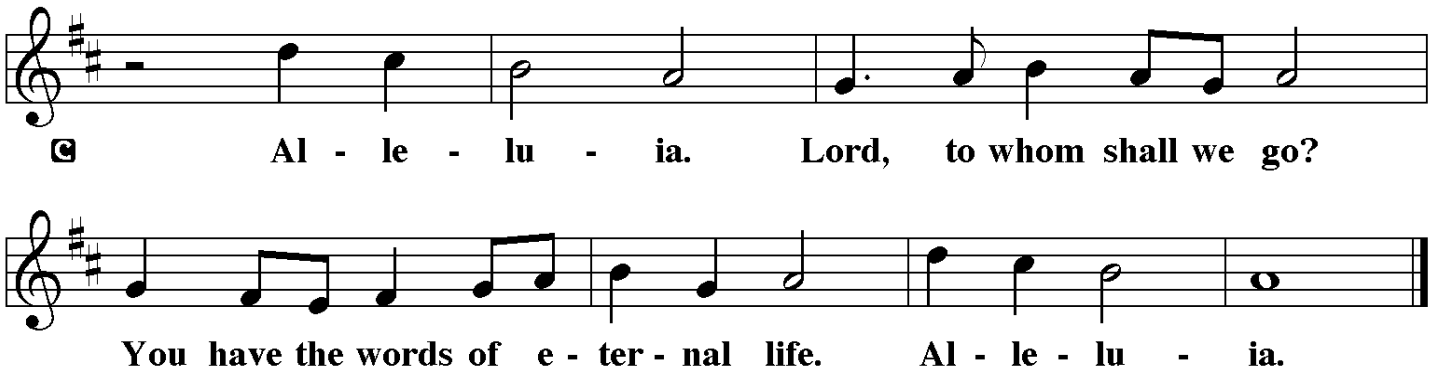
So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom

## The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

## The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 25:14-30
**Glory to you, O God.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money

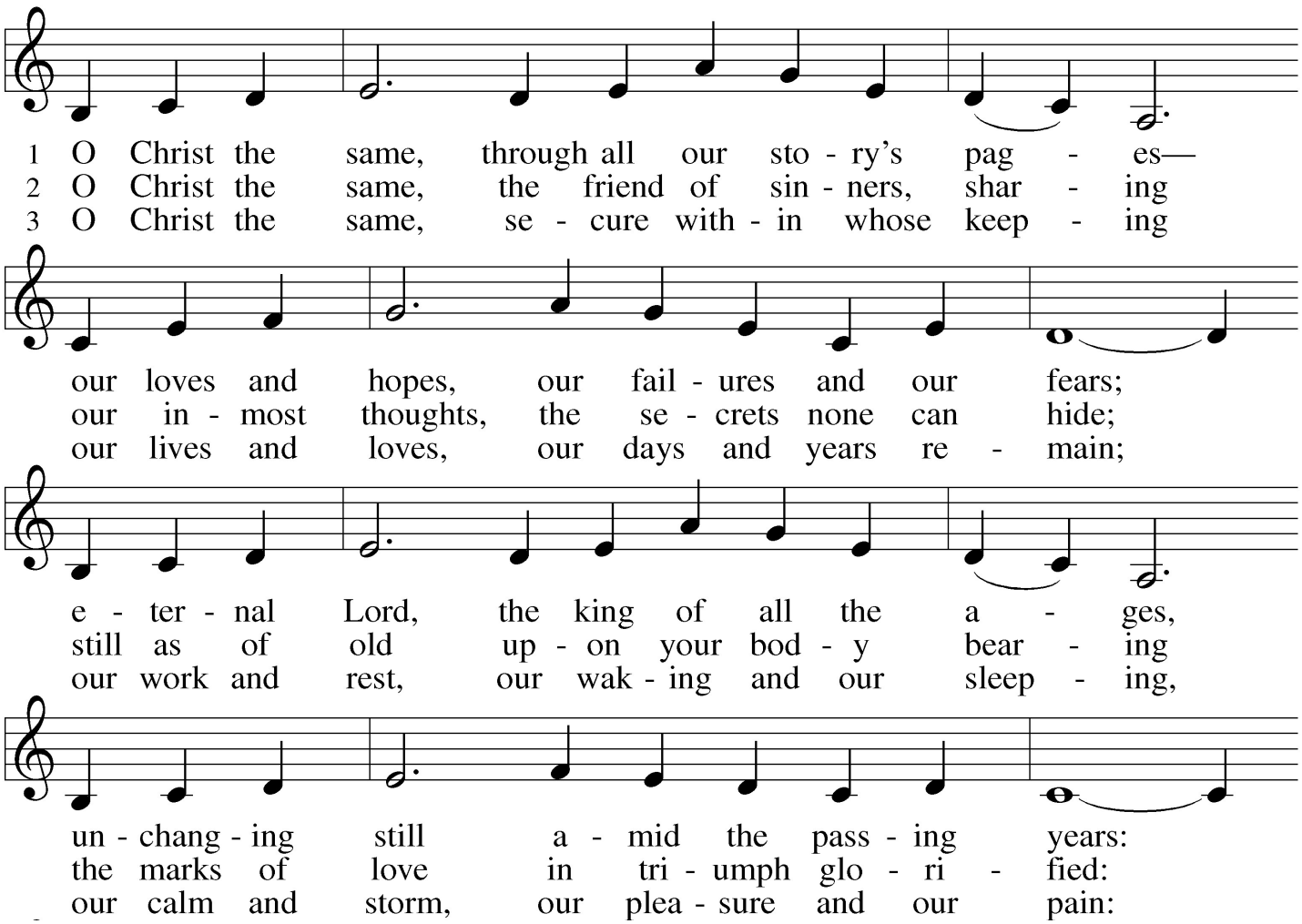
with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

The Sermon: Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day WOV 778

*O Christ the Same*





O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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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

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

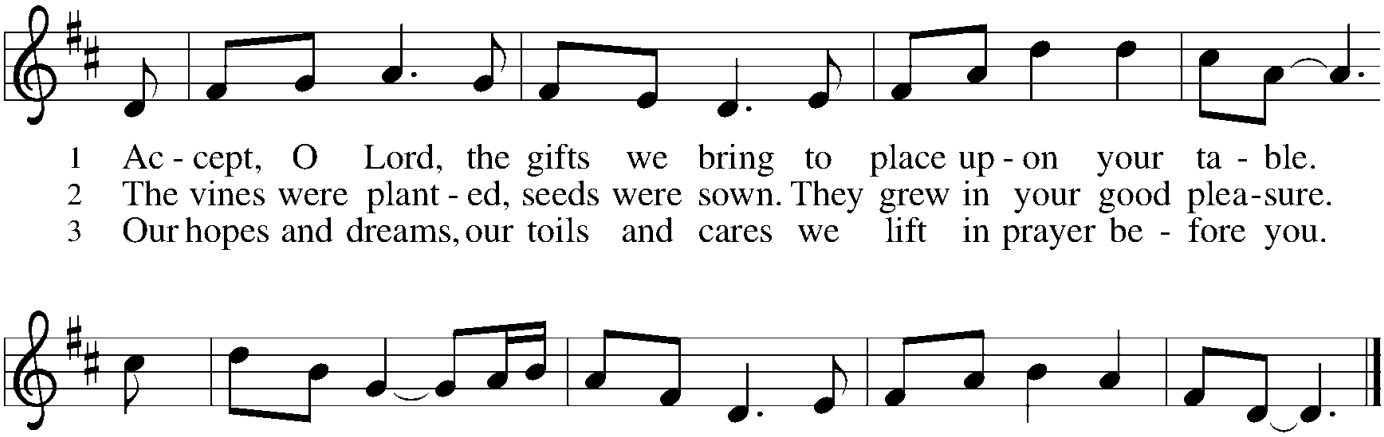
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

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.**

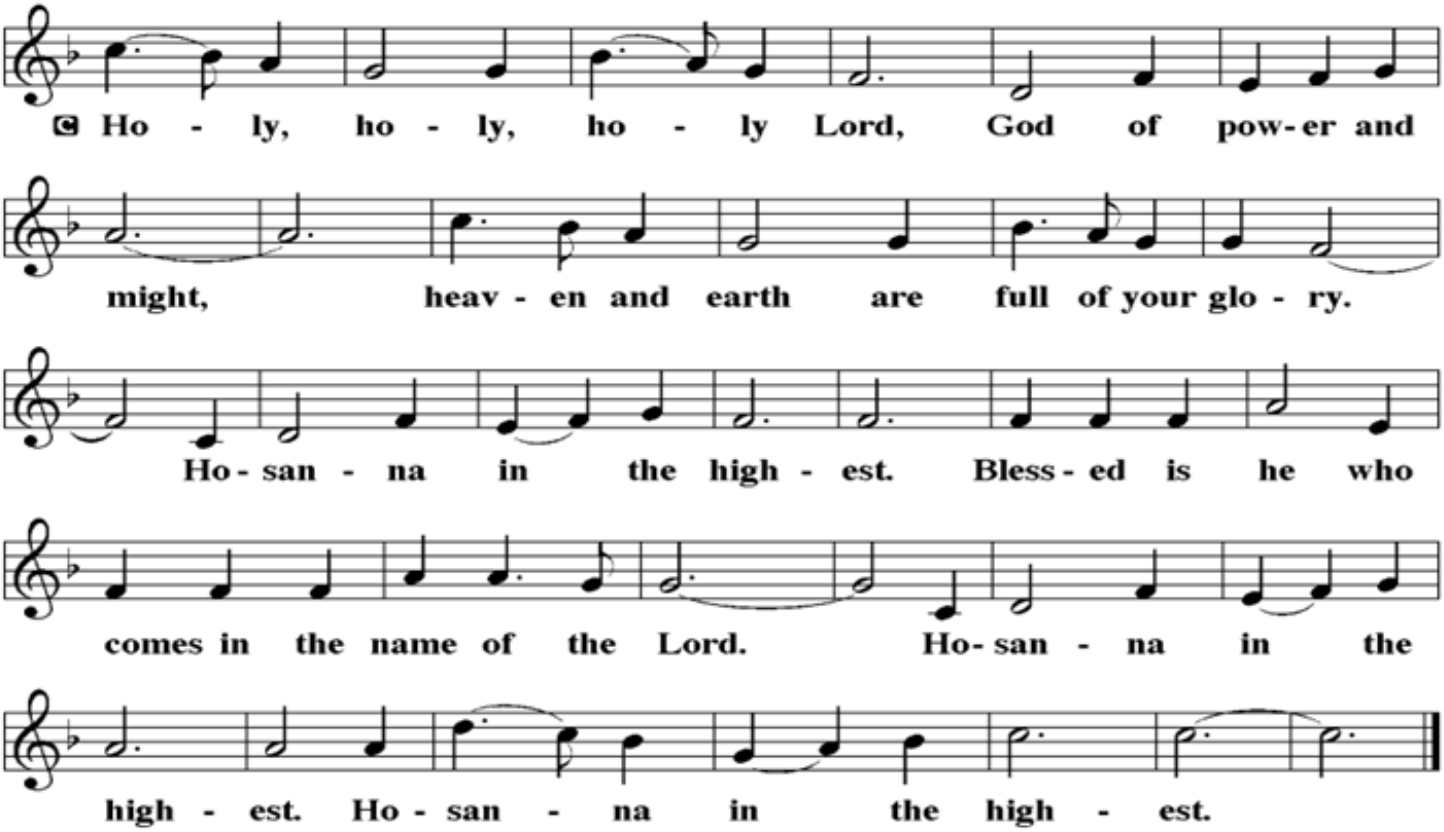
## The Great Thanksgiving

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

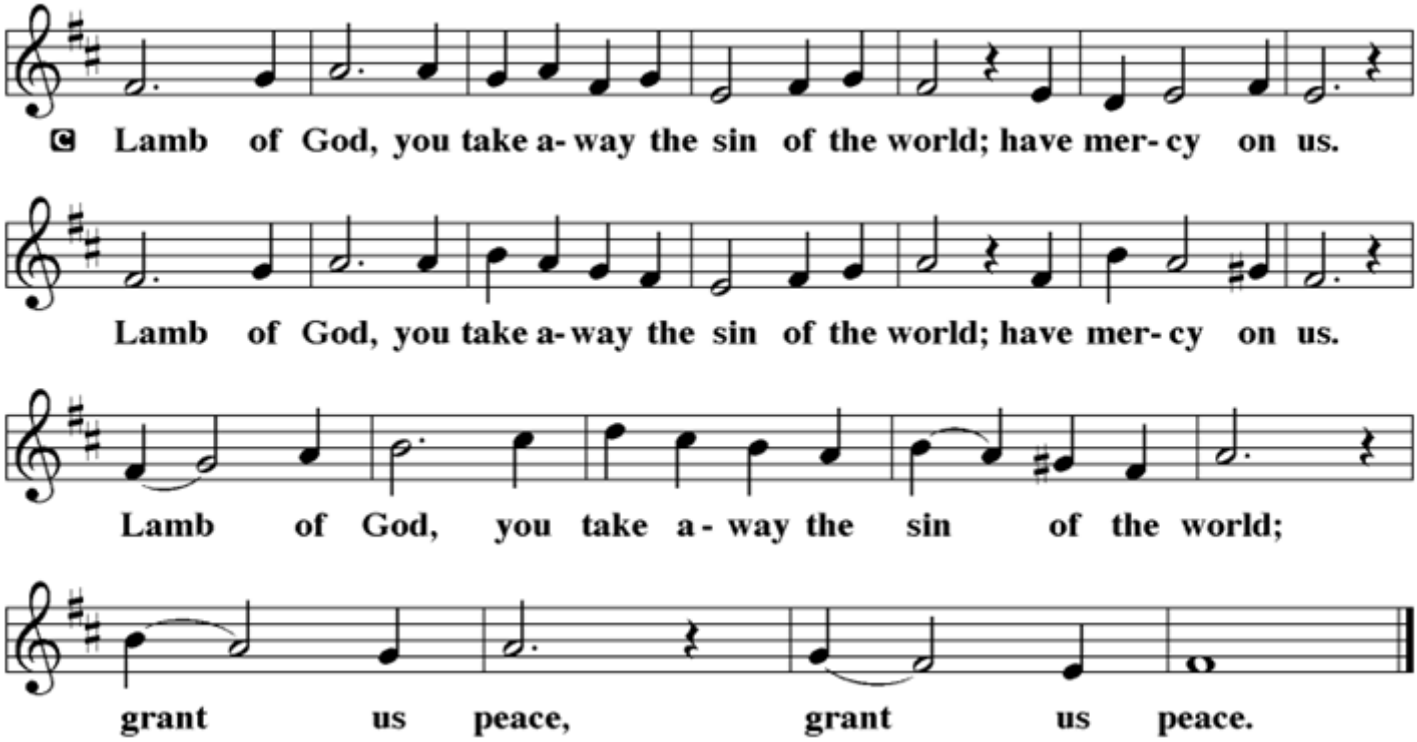


## Words of Institution

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

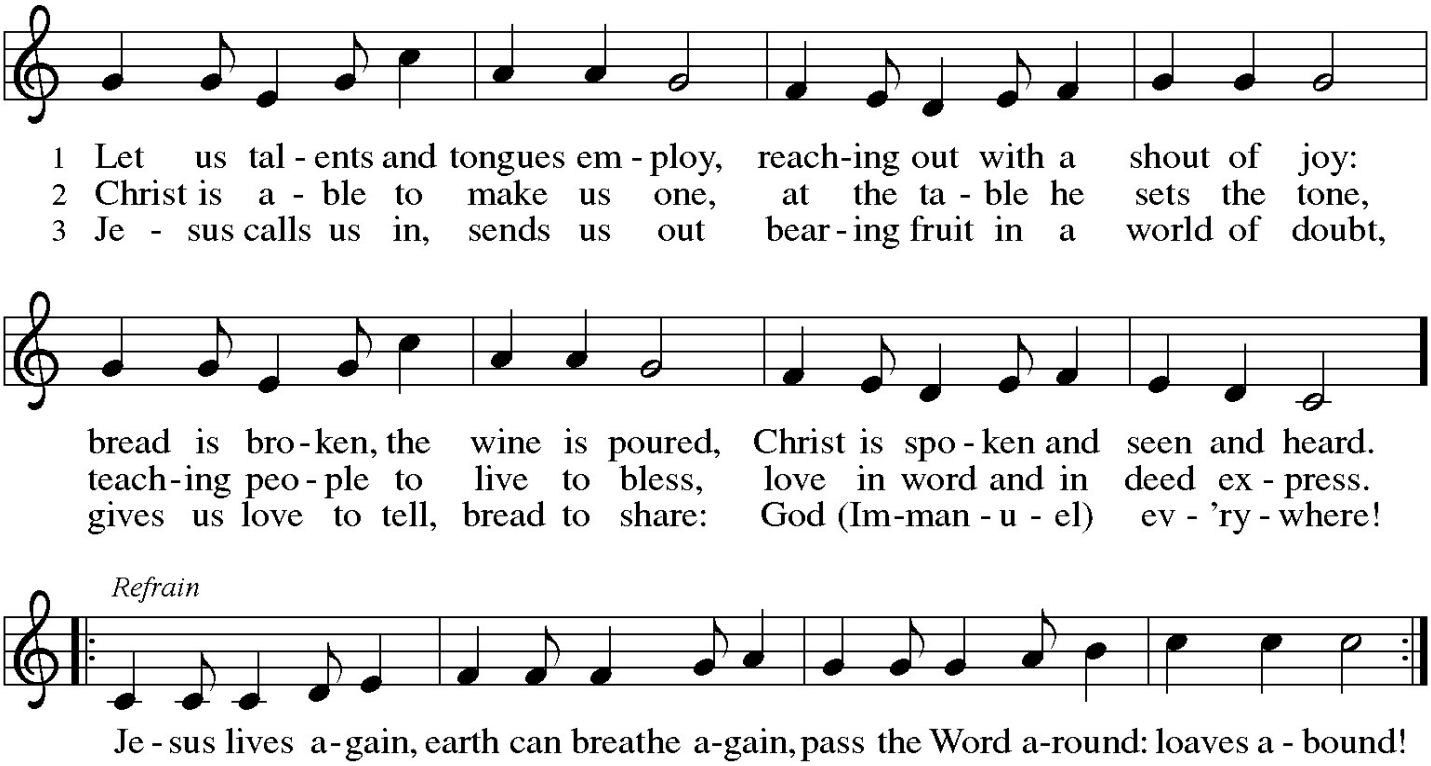
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**



## The Benediction

Sending Hymn WOV 754

## *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*




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Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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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:** John & Amy Petrunyak
**Deacon**: Kathy Snyder
**Ushers**: Rick Tomaszewski & Greg Wildridge

**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**
11/8/2026
$2421.43

**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, Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Ian Nowicki, David Niebalda, the family and friends of Barbara Scarafia Wurthman and Melvinea Bummer.

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

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!

## B*I*N*G*O

Join us on **Friday, November 20th** 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

## 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 22, 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!

## 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

## 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 15, 2026

| Event | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Good News Articles Due | | |
| Bible Study | 9:00am | Memorial Lounge |
| In Person/ Online Service | 10:00am | Sanctuary |
| Sunday School | 10:00am | |
| Coffee Hour | 11:00am | Memorial Lounge |
| Choir Practice | 11:05am | Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs |

## Monday, November 16, 2026

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

## Tuesday, November 17, 2026

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

## Wednesday, November 18, 2026

| Event | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Church Office Hours | 10:00am- 3:00pm | Church Office |
| Women's Lunch @ Bruno's | 12:00pm | Bruno's Restaurant, 5259 Broadway, Lancaster |

## Thursday, November 19, 2026

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

## Friday, November 20, 2026

| Event | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| B*I*N*G*O Night | 6:30pm | Fellowship Hall |

## Saturday, November 21, 2026

| Event | Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| In Person Service | 5:30pm | Chapel |
| LCLC Meat Raffle | 6:00pm | Ellicott Creek Fire Hall |

## 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 |

# '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

# 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/meatraffle
kaitlyn@lclcenter.org


Encourage one another and build up each other
1 Thessalonians 5:11a

## 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.*

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (*especially*). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Ian Nowicki, David Niebalda, the family and friends of Barbara Scarafia Wurthman and Melvinea Bummer. ). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. 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.**