

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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack

716-848-9683

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 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.**

Opening Hymn

WOV 719

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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The Prayer of the Day

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

The First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

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

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

Psalm 96:1-9 (NRSV)

Read Responsively

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

The Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

Grace to you and peace.

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

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading Matthew 22:15-22 **Glory to you, O God.**

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

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

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Lift Every Voice and Sing


1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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

God of Grace and God of Glory



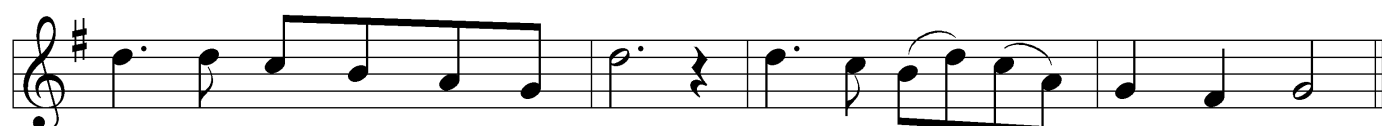
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



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



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



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

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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: RaeAnn Jakubowski

Deacon: Kathy Konstabel

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

10/11/2026

\$2554.11

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, 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, Marcus Moen, Joey, Teresa, and Donny.

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 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 St John's Lutheran Young Men association is happy to report that the ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family is presently at \$830. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Thanks to all who have given and if not, please consider a donation. You may use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope. Thanks again 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 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

Monday, October 19, 2026

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

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

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

Thursday, October 22, 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, October 23, 2026

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

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Chowderfest	9:00am- 12:00pm	Kitchen
Sunday School	10:00am	
Worship/Confirmations	10:00am	Sanctuary
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Trunk or Treat	4:00pm- 6:00pm	Parking Lot
YOUTH - Clean-Up & Party	6:30pm- 8:00pm	

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.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, 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., Melvinea, Amber Burkhardt, Loretta Battaglia, Wayne Wolf, David Neiabala; Diane, Sandy & family, Rosie Cline, Marcus Moen, Joey, Teresa, and Donny). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). 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.