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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 8, 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.

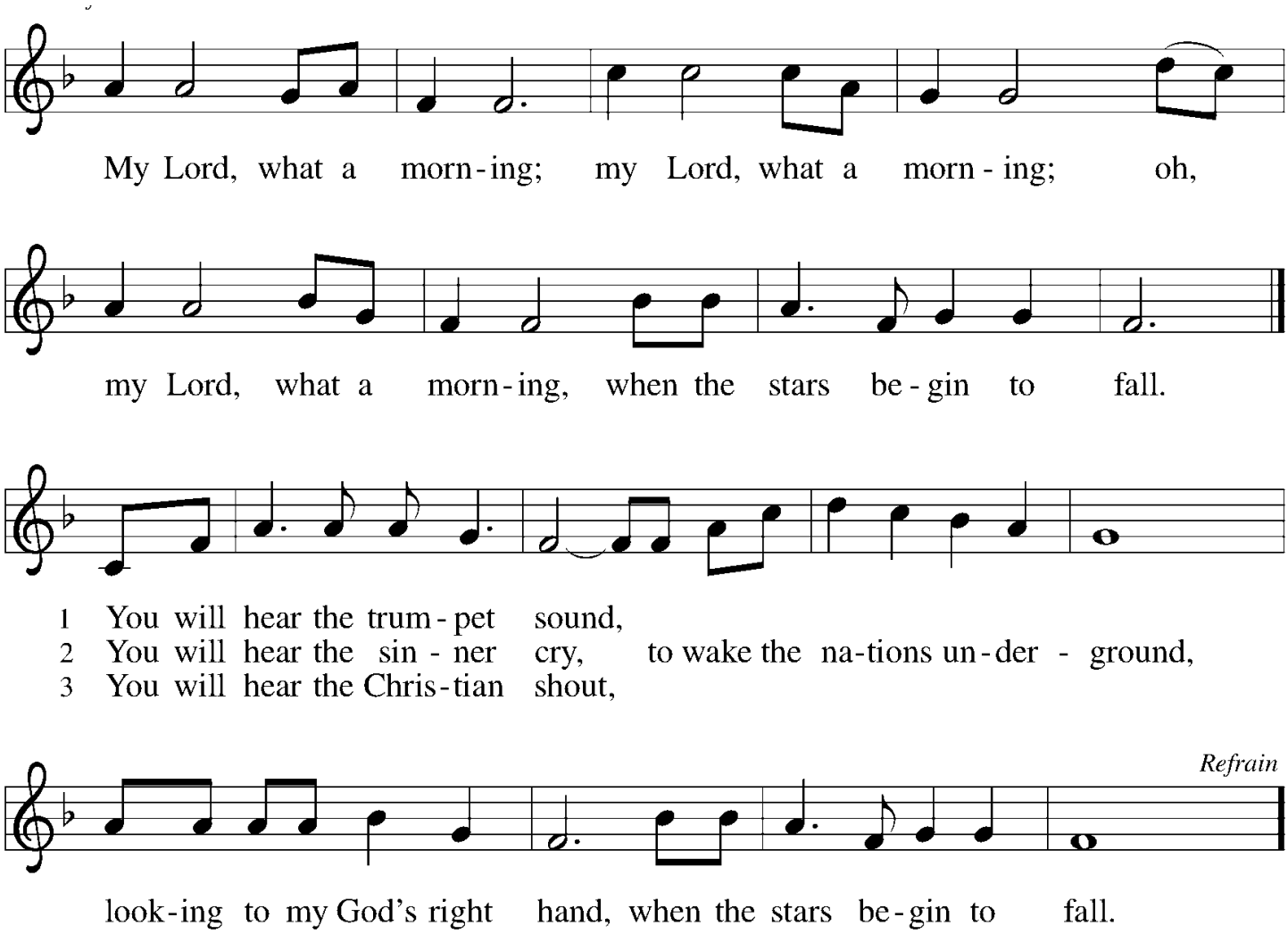
Holy God,

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 WOV 627

My Lord, What a Morning



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

The Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The First Reading
Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me
your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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



Psalm 70 (NRSV)
Read Responsively

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever,
“Great is the Lord!”

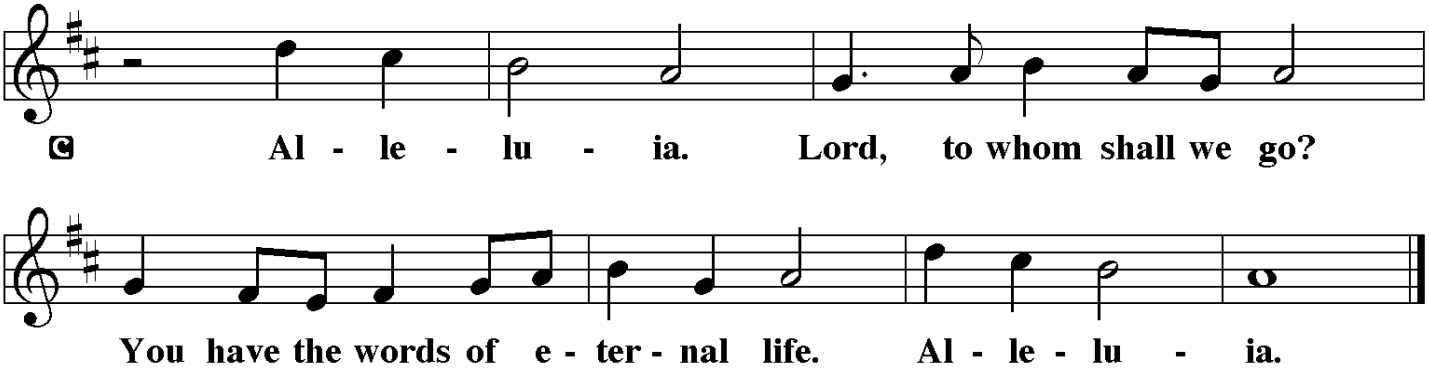
But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.

The Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 25:1-13
Glory to you, O God.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
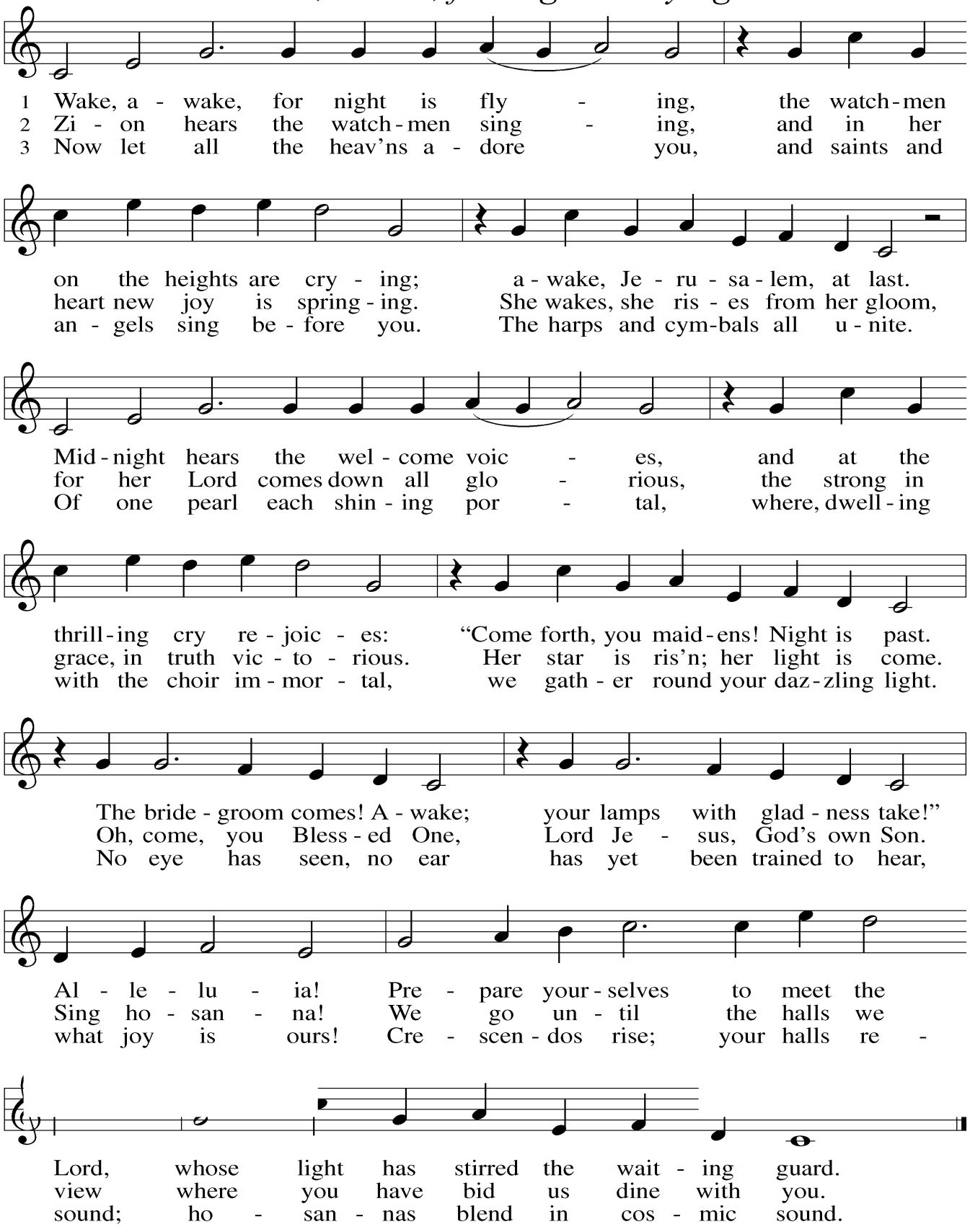
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day LBW 31

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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Baptisms of Stetson Daniel & Charlotte Lynn Siuda



God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:
I present Stetson Daniel & Charlotte Lynn Siuda for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?
Parents: We do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?
Parents: We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Stetson & Charlotte in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help these children live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **Sponsors: We do.**

People of God, do you promise to support Stetson & Charlotte and pray for these children in their new life in Christ? **Congregation: We do.**

Affirmation of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? **Congregation: We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation may be seated.



Stetson Daniel/Charlotte Lynn, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Stetson/Charlotte with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Stetson Daniel/Charlotte Lynn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

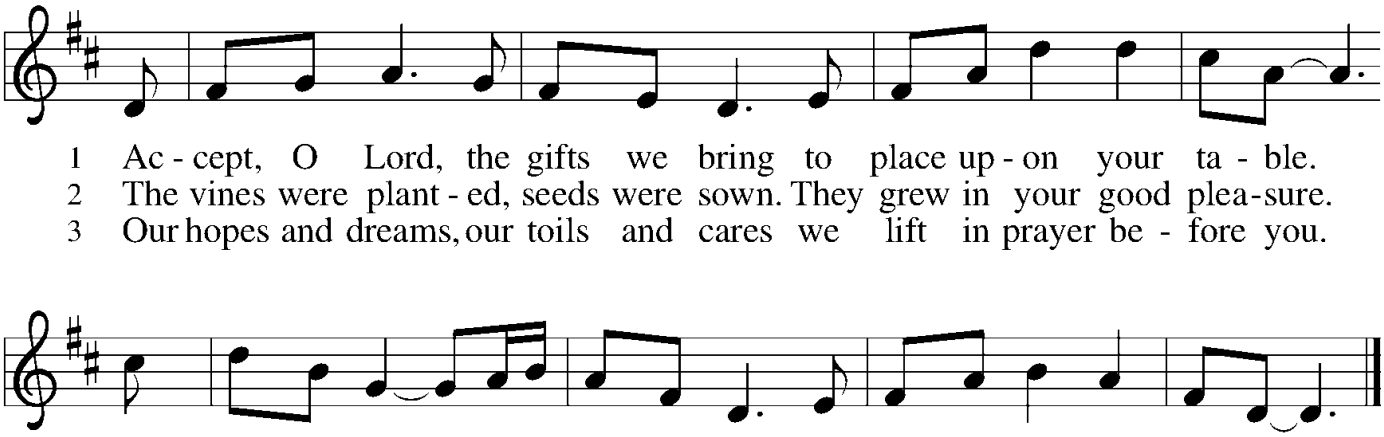


The Sharing of the Peace

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
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress
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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 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.**

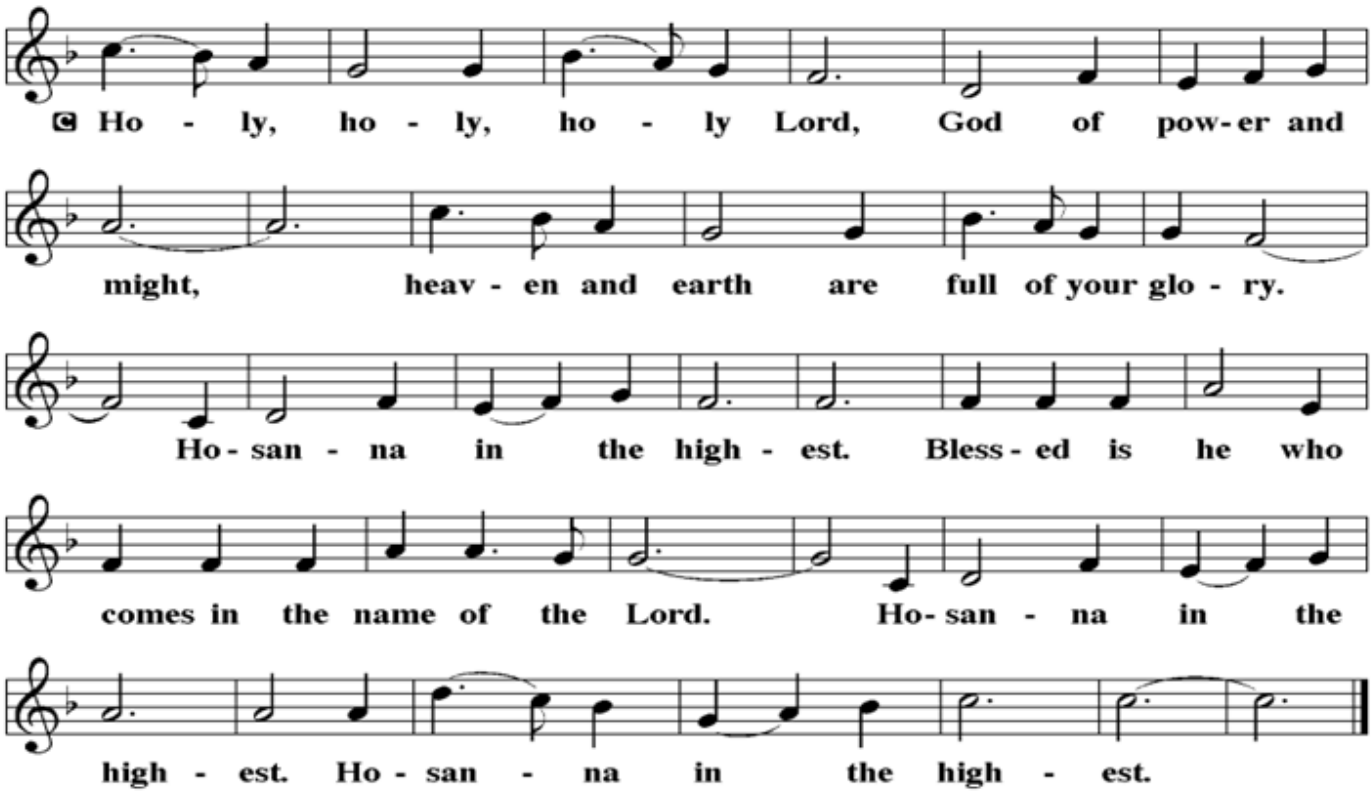
The Great Thanksgiving

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

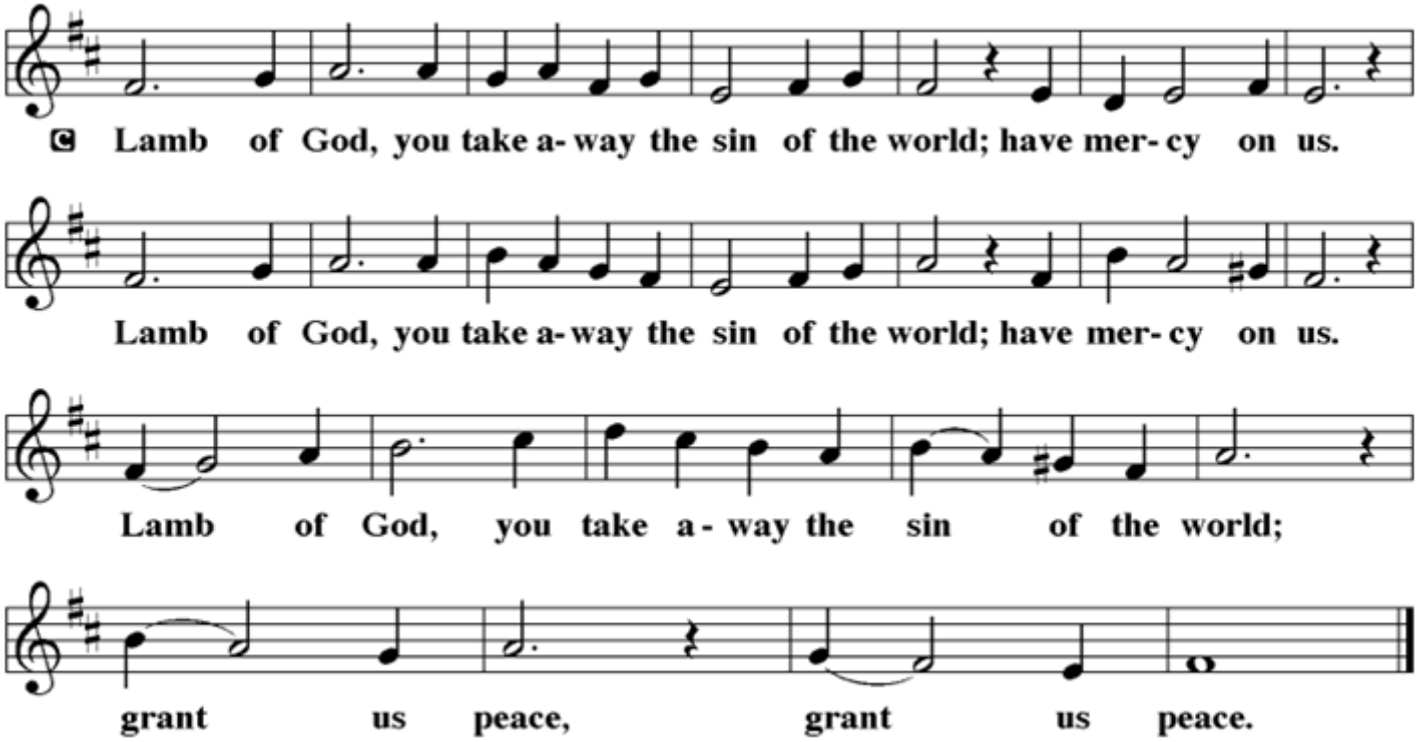


Words of Institution

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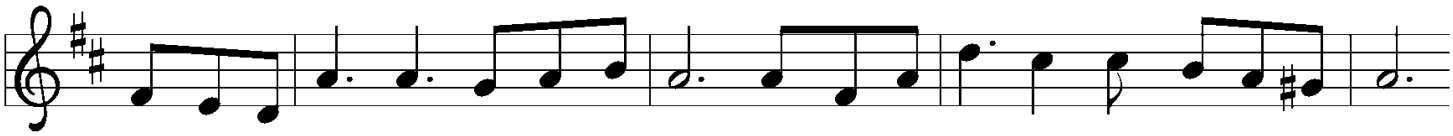
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**
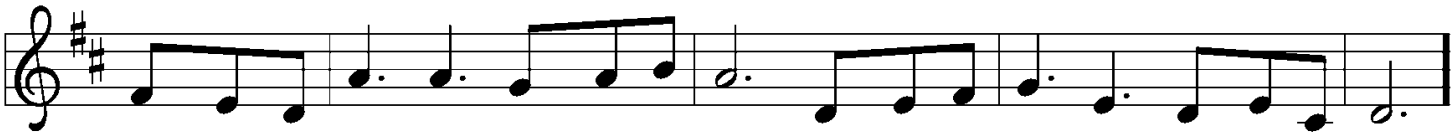


The Benediction

Sending Hymn WOV 699

Blessed Assurance
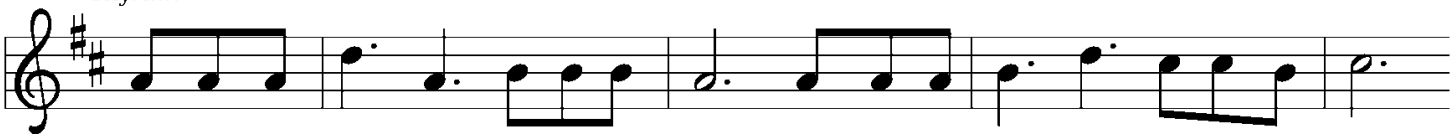


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,
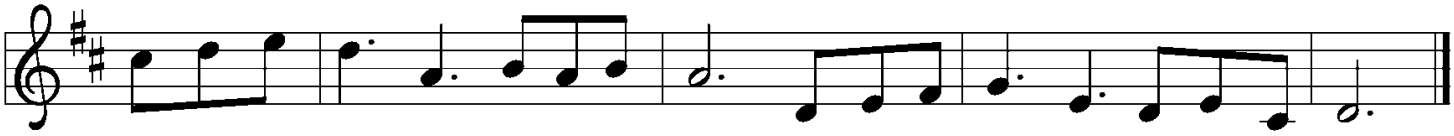


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908



The Sending
Go out 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: Kathy Snyder
Deacon: Kathy Konstabel
Ushers: Rich Rice & Linda Costa

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	**Quarterly Statements available upon request**.
11/1/2026	If you would like to receive quarterly
$3425.00	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, Joey, Teresa, Donny, and David Niebalda.

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

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.

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.

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 15, 22, 29

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!

Baptism Blessings for Stetson and Charlotte;
and their parents, Tyler and Vanessa;
and their sponsors Steven, Gina, Allison, and Dylan.

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, November 8, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Bible Study	9:00am	Memorial Lounge
Sunday School	10:00am	
Worship/Baptisms (Siuda)	10:00am	Sanctuary
Confirmation Class	11:00am- 12:30pm	
Choir Practice	11:05am	Choir Room - Off of the Chapel Downstairs
Property & Grounds	11:30am	

Monday, November 9, 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, November 10, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
Lancaster Garden Club	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall
LYMA Mtg.	7:00pm	

Thursday, November 12, 2026

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

Saturday, November 14, 2026

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

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

'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

@ Skoob's Village Grille

50 Central Ave, Lancaster

$30 per person - All Are Welcome!

Contact the Church Office

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



For All the Saints

Sheldon Busch
Harry Mc Naughton
Darrell Mondrala
Edward, Ruth, Mike,
& James Fellinger
Roger Kruger
Roswell & Marjorie Clark
Seth Clark
Walter Mildenberger
Teagan Lynn
Clifton & Mary Young
Ellis Robert Kemna
Marie Wu
Joanne Phillips
David Bondrow
Robert Beers
Patrick Mastrangelo
Neal Walsh
Bob Litz
Joanne & Vernon Barnes
Eileen & Joseph Scali

Mary & Henry Mayer
Debbie Kaminski
Bill & Isabel
Stan & Chris
Jody Kotowski
Allison & Stosh Tomaszewski
James, Brian, Scott,
& Jack Graney
Joe & Heidi Kostasiak
Bob Bomczyk
Gerry Shrama
Barbara Frost
Mark Wnek
Bob Rajczak
Bob Reynolds
Marlene Stutzman
Joan Fuerst
Diane Snajder
Jessica Fuerst
Richard Schmidt

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 illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (We pray especially for Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Arden Kruger, Bryce, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Melvinea, Pastor Erik Hart, Ian Nowicki, Joey, Teresa, Donny, and David Niebalda.) God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. 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.**