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



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.

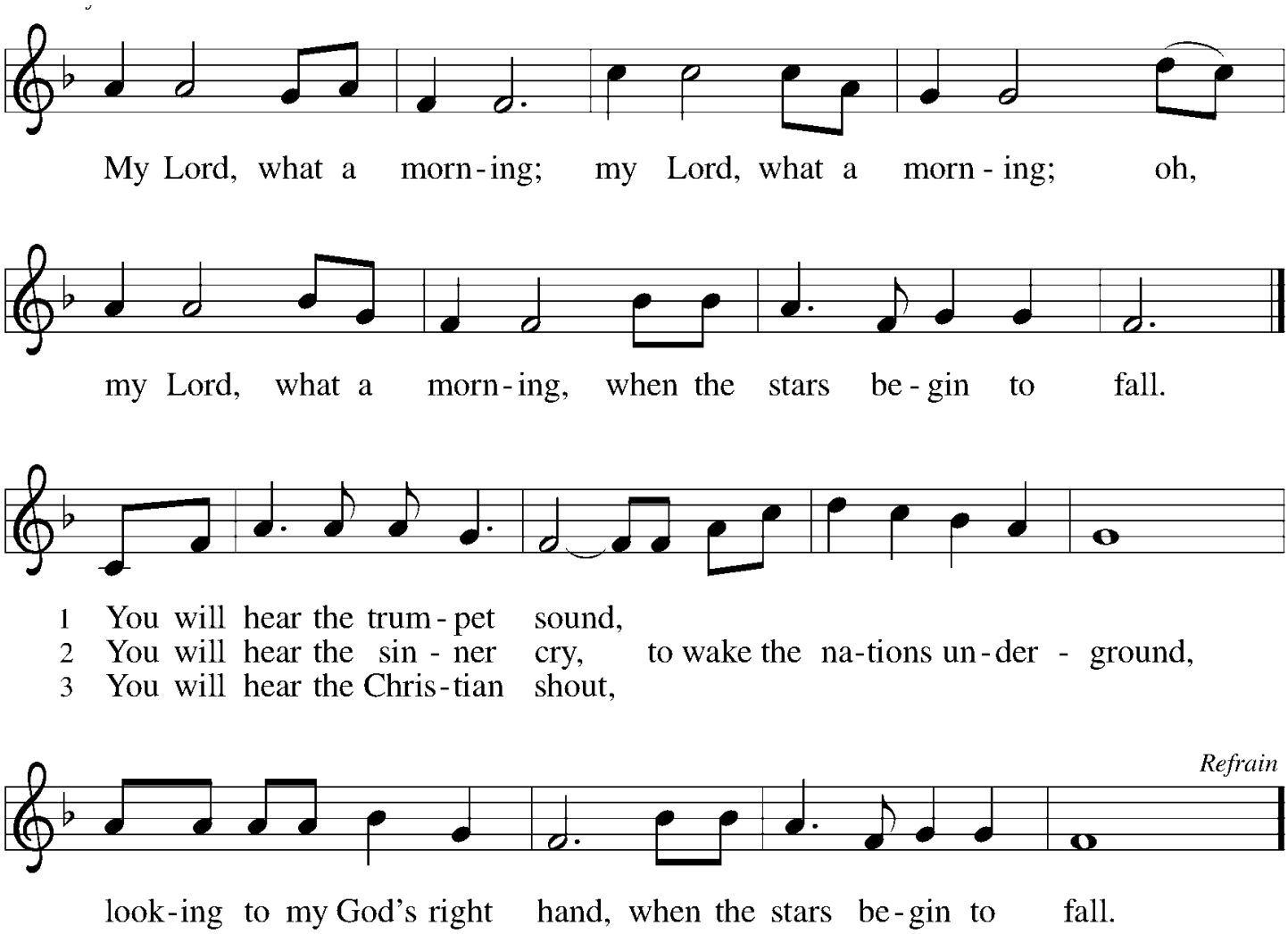
Holy God,

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!”

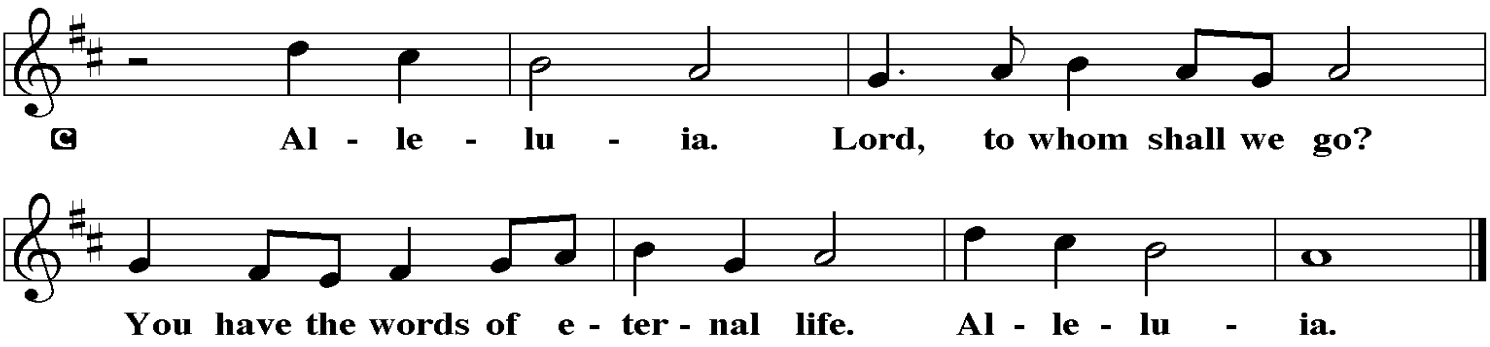
But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.

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.

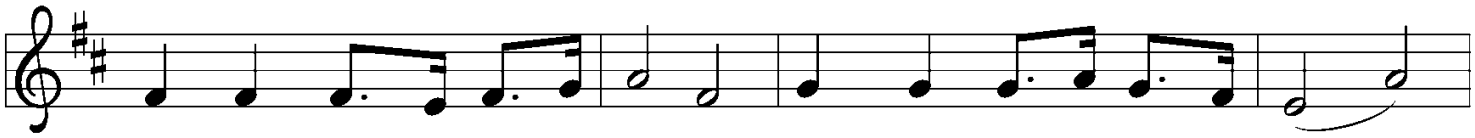
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



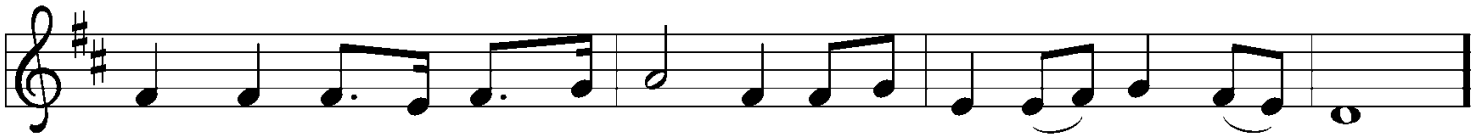
The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day WOV 690

Shall We Gather at the River

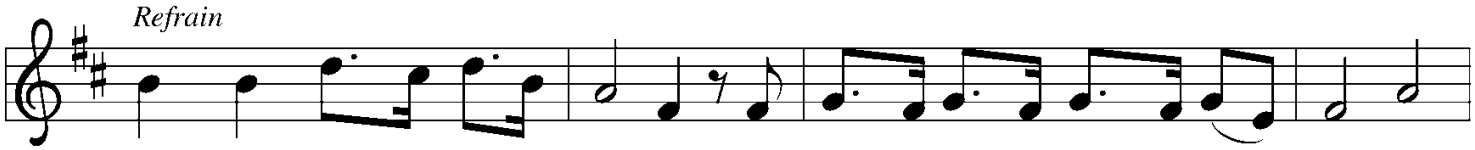


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

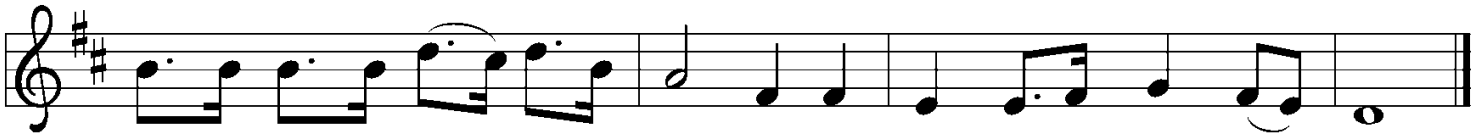


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

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.**

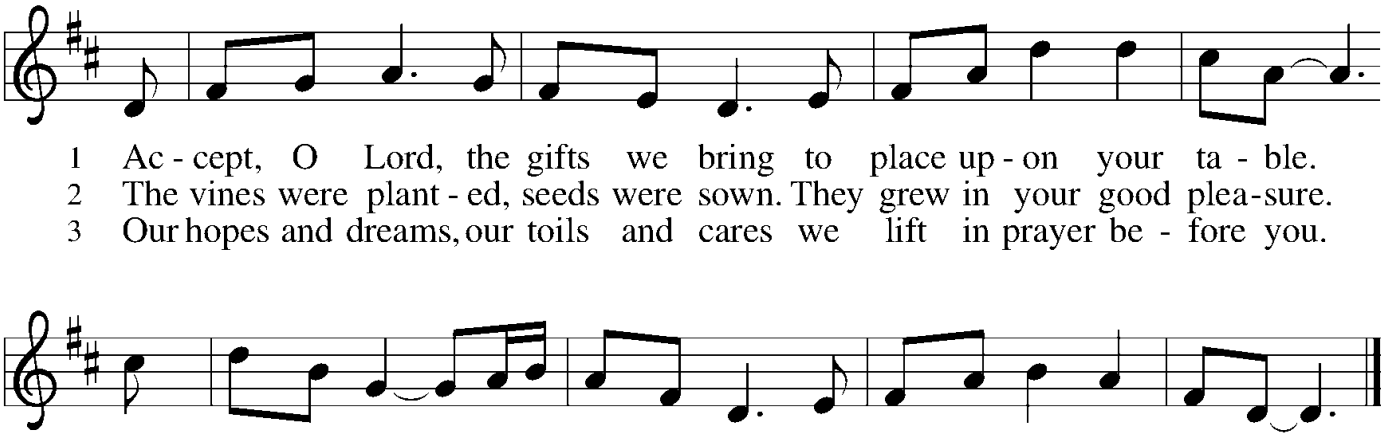
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

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.**

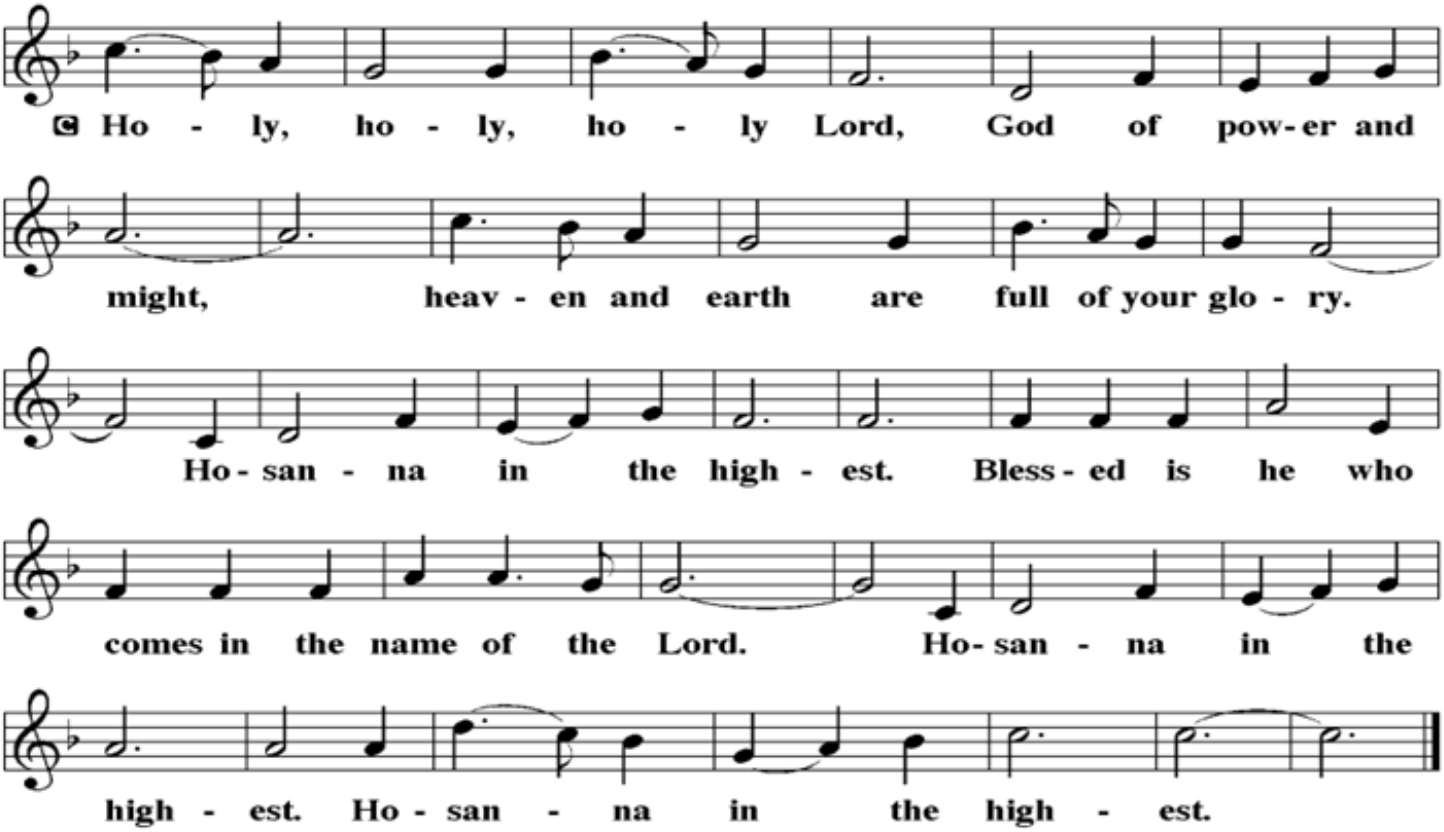
The Great Thanksgiving

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

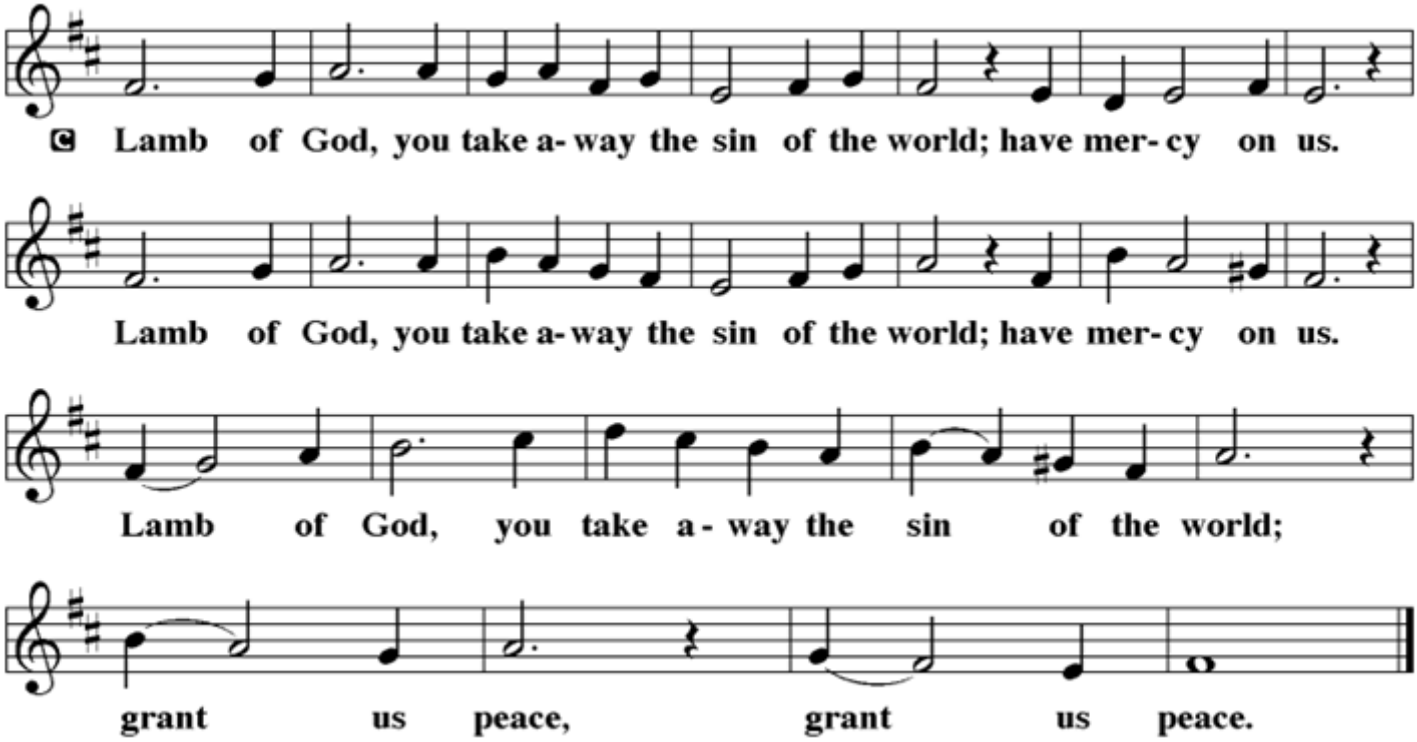


Words of Institution

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

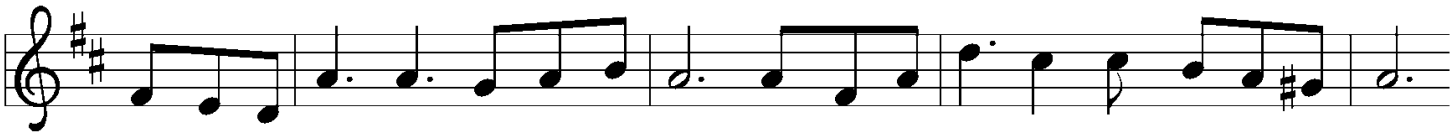
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**



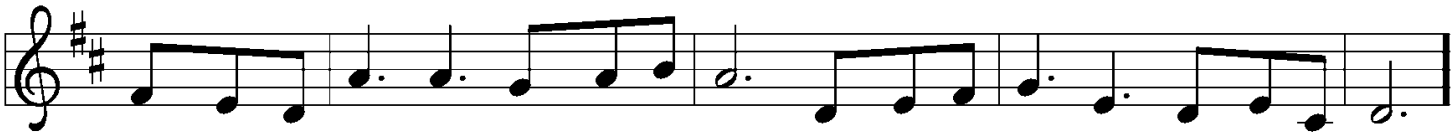
The Benediction

Sending Hymn WOV 699

Blessed Assurance

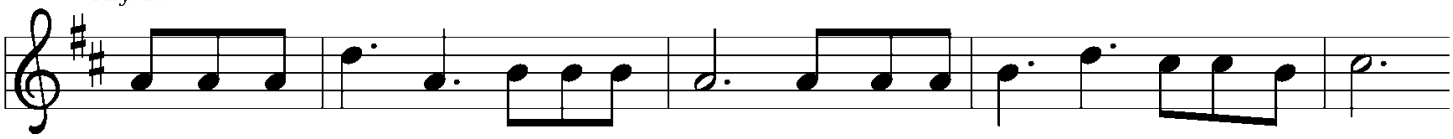


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

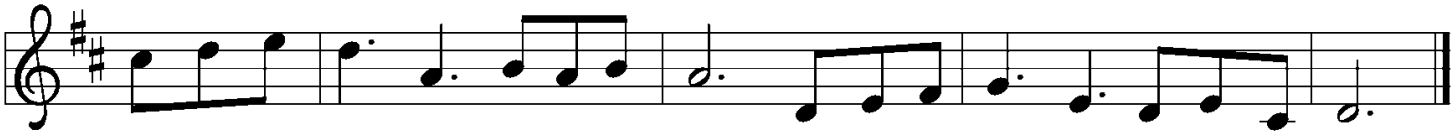


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

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 to Worship Today!

Melissa is @ St. John's Elma office on Tuesdays from 10am-3pm.

This Week's Calendar

Sun Nov 8	Worship @ 8:45am
Tues Nov 10	Council Mtg. 6Pm
Sun Nov 15	Worship @ 8:45am

Reader Schedule	Communion Asst Schedule
11/8/2026 Rachel Delamater	11/8/2026 Heidi Caldarella
11/15/2026 Sharann Ratka	11/15/2026 Debbie Schulz
11/22/2026 Jackie Kuntz	11/22/2026 Carol Jenney
11/29/2026 Dwayne Guerin	11/29/2026 Sharann Ratka

Birthdays This Week

14 Gretchen LaBrake
Ronald LaBrake

Anniversaries This Week



November Women's lunch/fellowship

11/18/2026 @ 12pm @ Bruno's Restaurant
(5259 Broadway, Lancaster NY)
Please sign up by October 30, 2026

Thank you to everyone who donated to The Lion's Club by donating used sneakers. We appreciate the participation. Thank you!

Our Gifts to God: On Sunday, November 1st, 37 people attended worship, and the offerings given to the glory of God were $1670. Needed each week to meet the budget is $1805.00. Thank you! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

If you would like to help **Ronald McDonald House** by collecting can tabs, please see or call Carol Jenney 716-449-0632.



FISH is in need of canned meats, ravioli, soups, pudding mix, jelly, 100% juice, hams, and turkey breasts. There is a basket for donations in the narthex entrance. Let's keep it full! "As you did it to the least of these, you have done it unto me." Alternate Drop Off: FISH bin in entryway at Cy's Elma Pharmacy.

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

FISH Toy Day

Wishes: Arts, Crafts, Games, Puzzles, Toys (birth-12yrs.).
Older kids items: Outdoor activities (sporting goods), Legos, Minecraft, Pokemon, Gift Cards. **Other needs**: Wrapping Paper and Tape.
Thank you for helping to provide a Merry Christmas for many.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please review the prayer list and make note of changes.

For those in mourning, family and friends of:

Della Taber
Ron Luders Sr.
Family of Guy Walter
Family of Earl Farris
Zaire Allison "Flip"
Sue Schneider
Richard Allen

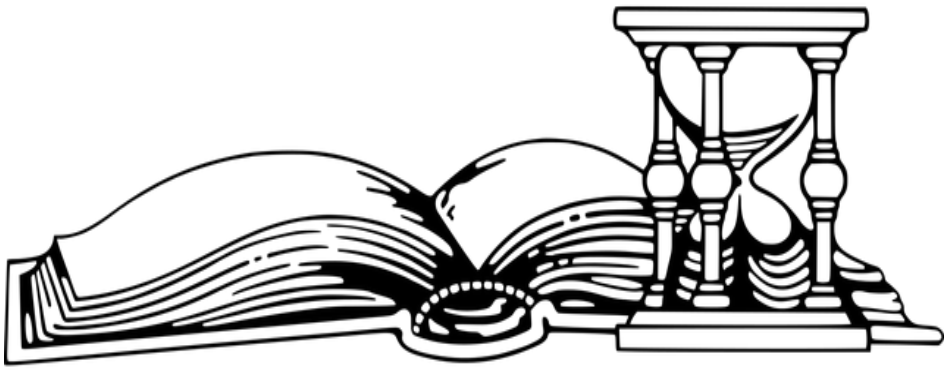
For members in need of prayer:

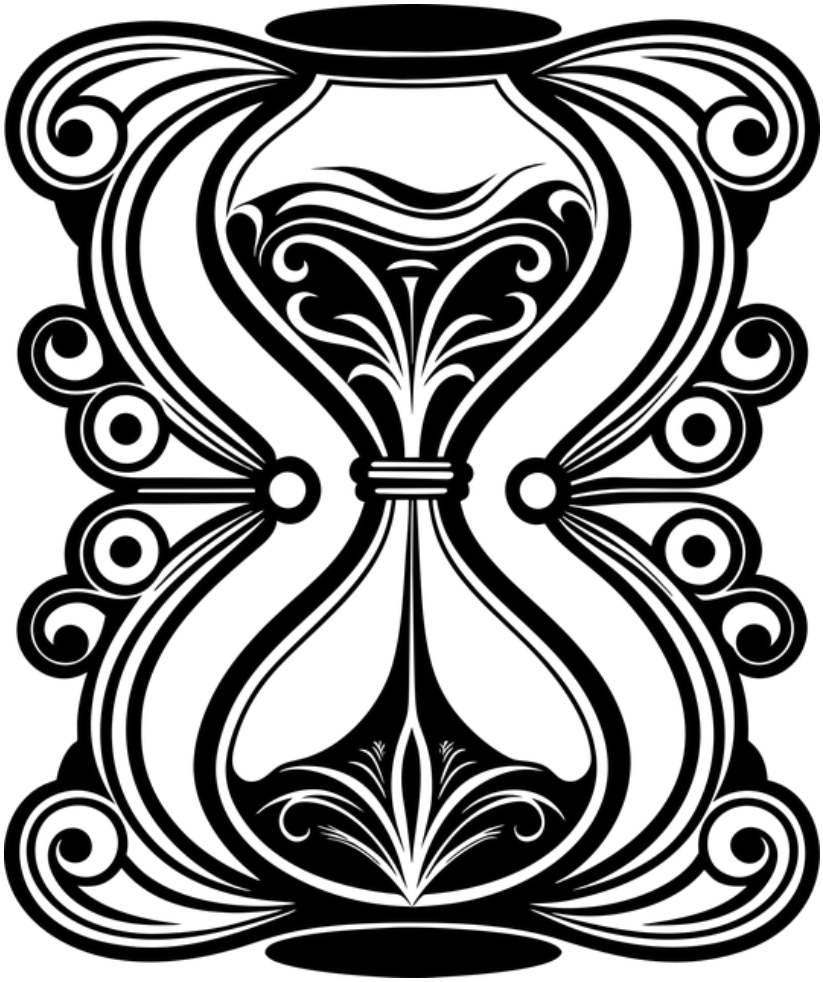
Nancy Luders
ArlineTrautwein
Luann Cox
Scott Caldarella
Heidi Caldarella
Mark Taber
Rose Sperber
The LaBrake Family
Gretchen LaBrake (healing)
Jodi Serwacki
Slade McTugue (wrist surgery/healing) Mary McTigue (healing)

For those in need of prayer:

Josh Wulf (cancer)
Randy Riel (health)
Alec Delamater
Dee & Dave Plott (strength & healing)
Dr. Bannister (healing)
Holly Hopkins Hicks (cancer)
Delilah Rose
Ron (thanksgiving)
Marge (hospice @ home)
Diana (balance issues)
Kathy & Dave W. (strength & healing)
Randy Wulf (cancer)
Cheryl Huff (healing)
Madelyn (brain surgery)
Kathy Lasch (Healing)
Debbie (cancer)
Carol Minnick (healing)
Joanne (tests & surgery)

To add or remove names from the list please contact the church office. Names will remain on the list for 6 months.





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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 . . .*) God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for all who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week: Gretchen and Ronald. May they be strengthened by you to love, forgive, and live in your abundant new life. 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.**