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



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 1, 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.

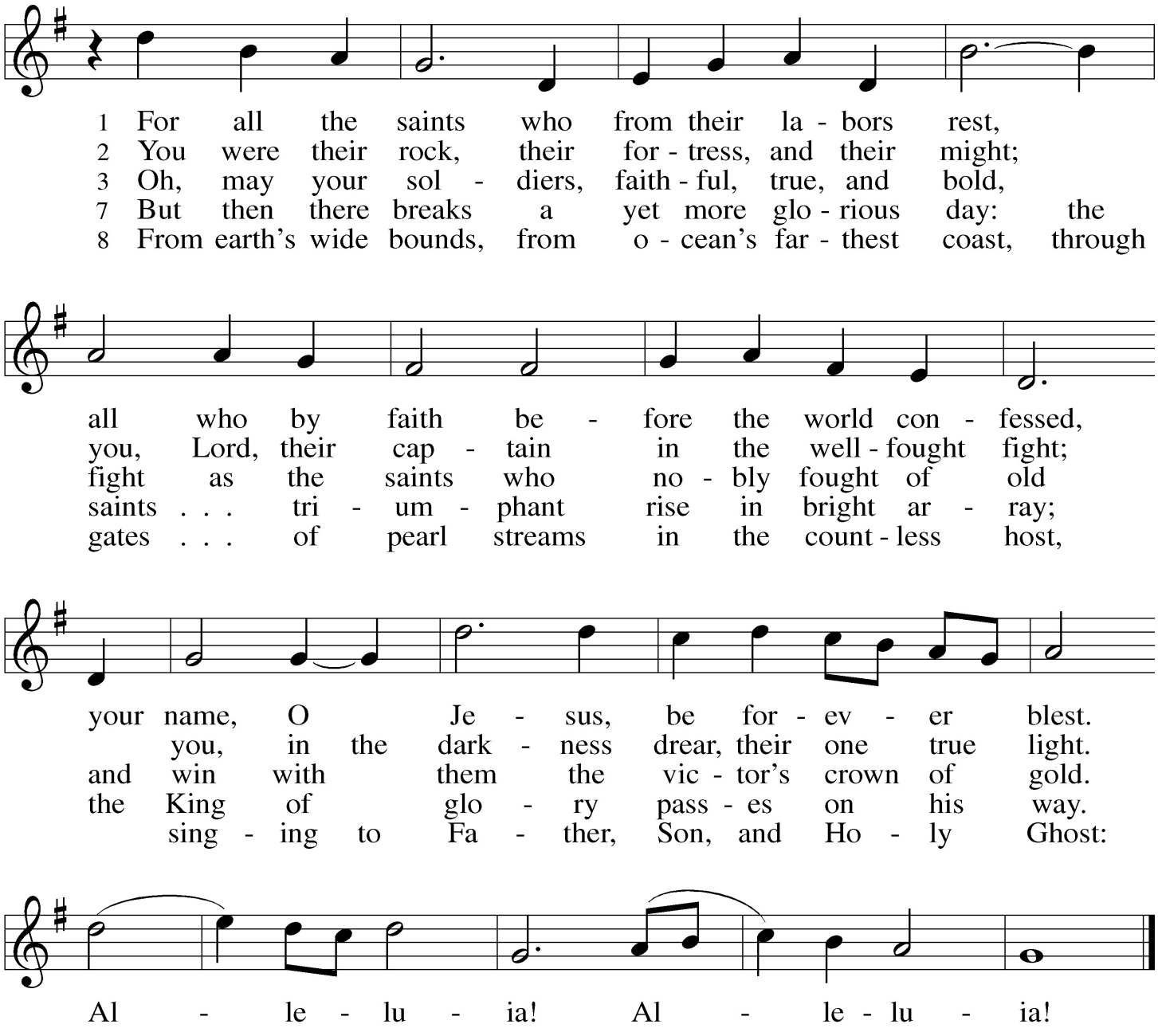
Holy God,

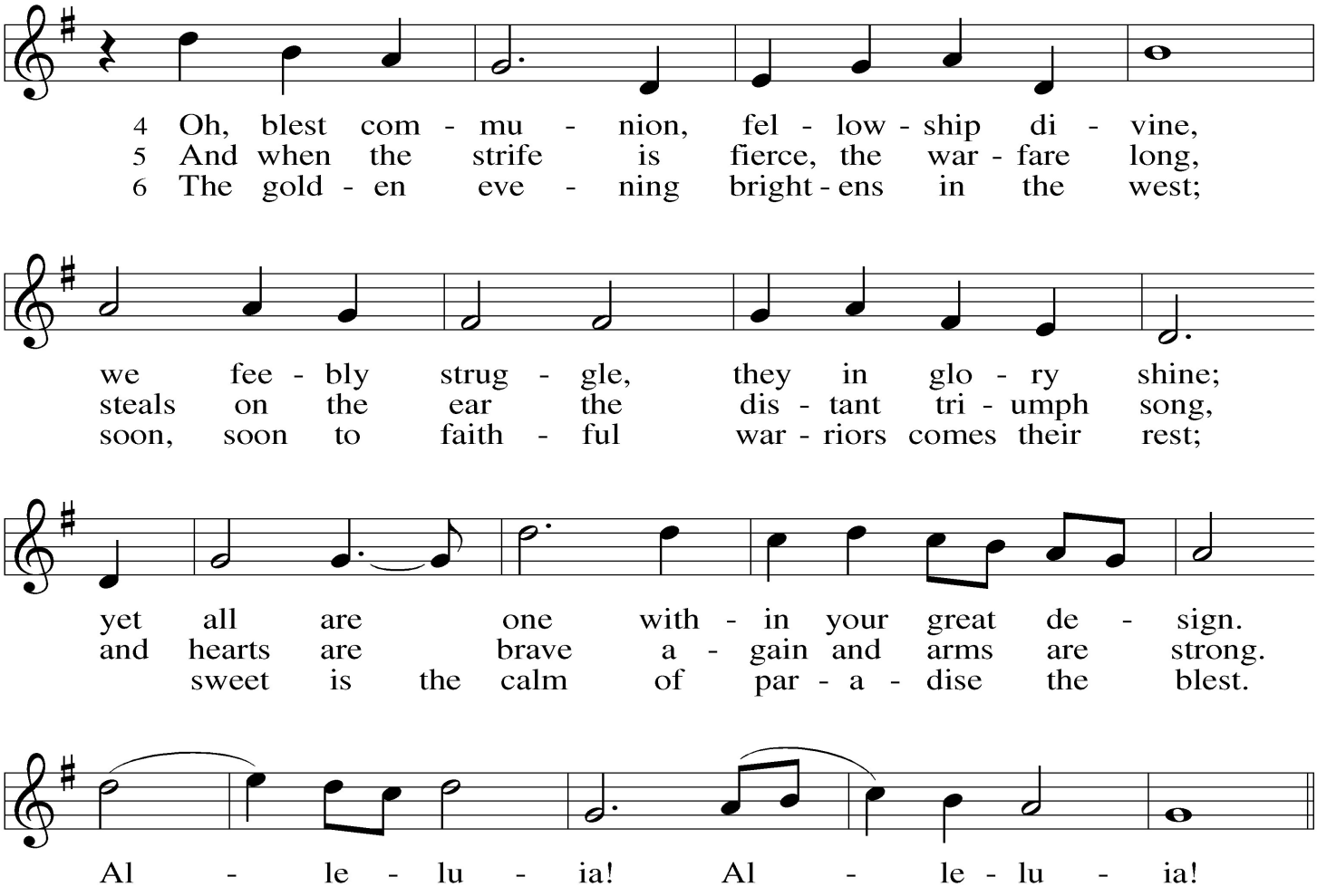
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us 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 174

For All the Saints (v.1-4)





Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: SINE NOMINE, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading
Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (NRSV)
Read Responsively

I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.

Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around
those who fear the Lord and delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

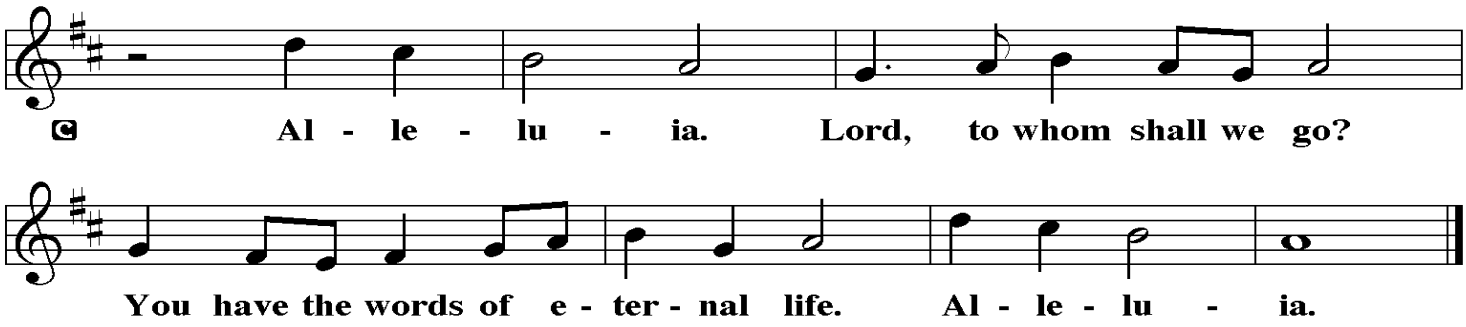
The Second Reading
1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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



The Alleluia



The Gospel Reading
Matthew 5:1-12
Glory to you, O God.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

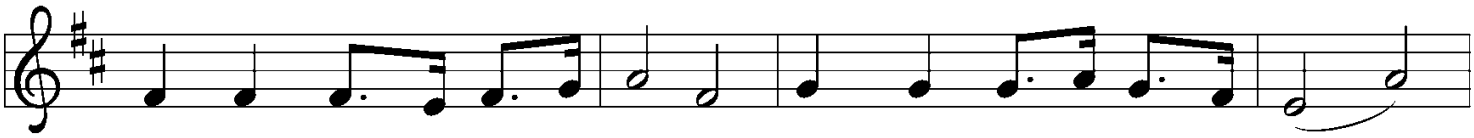
This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



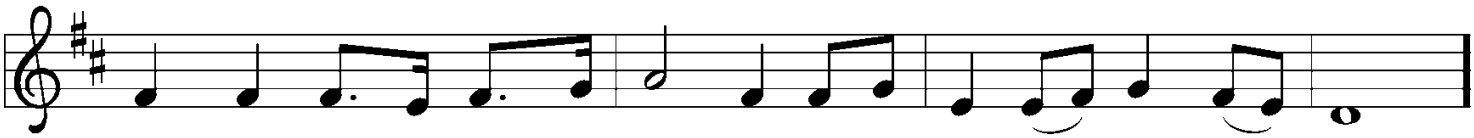
The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day WOV 690

Shall We Gather at the River

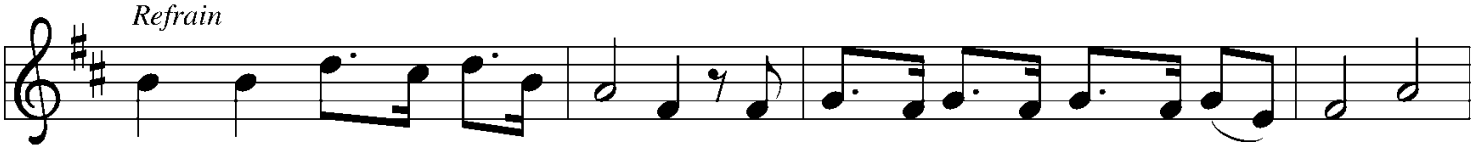


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

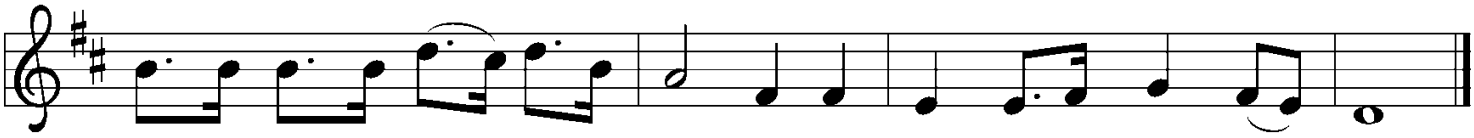


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

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.**

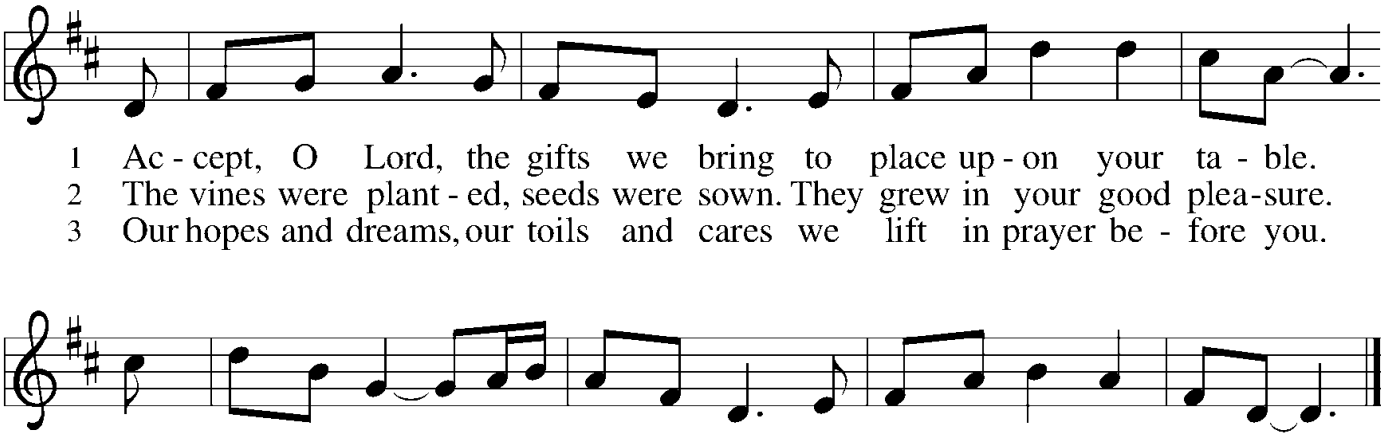
Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

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.**

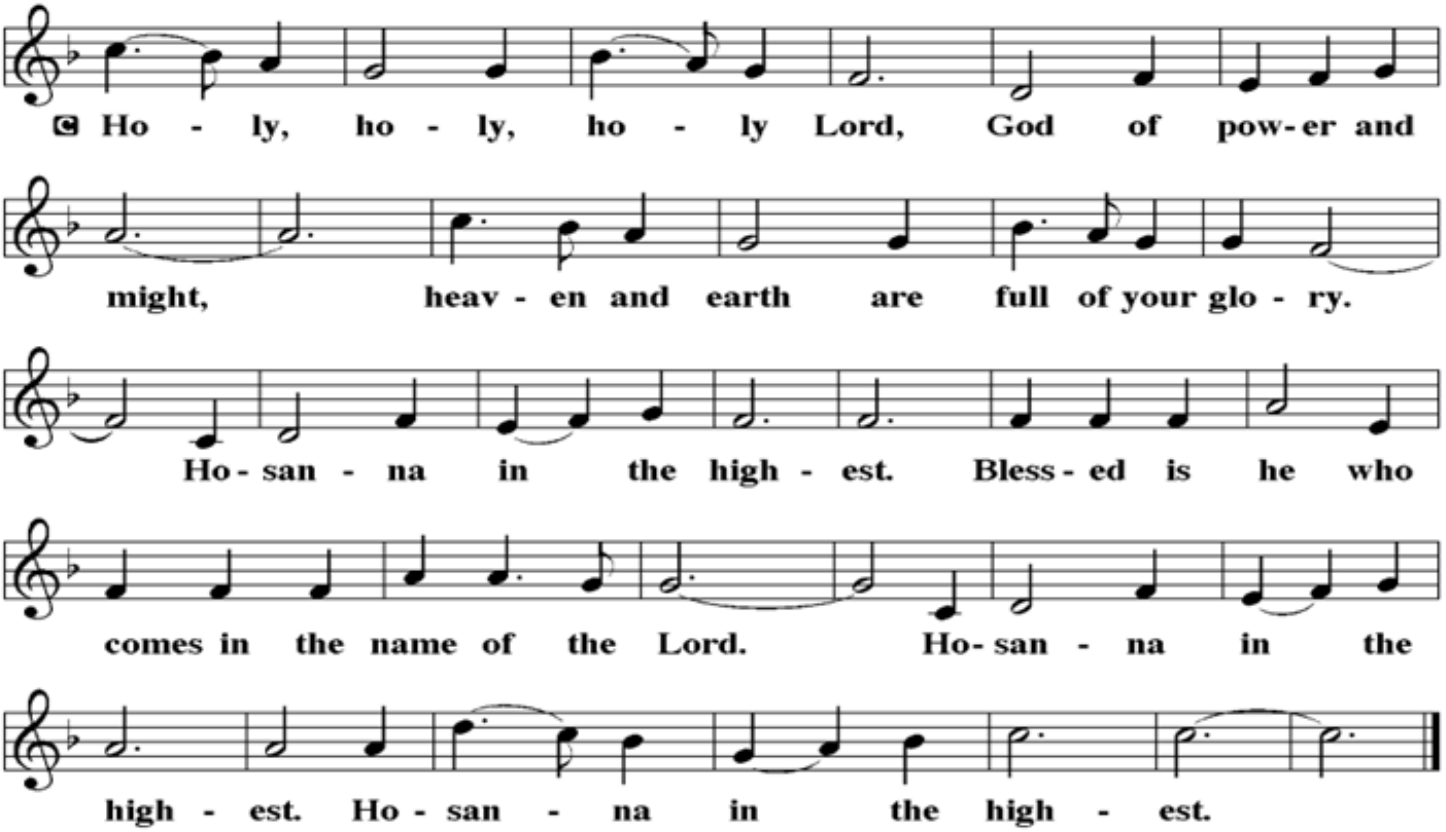
The Great Thanksgiving

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. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

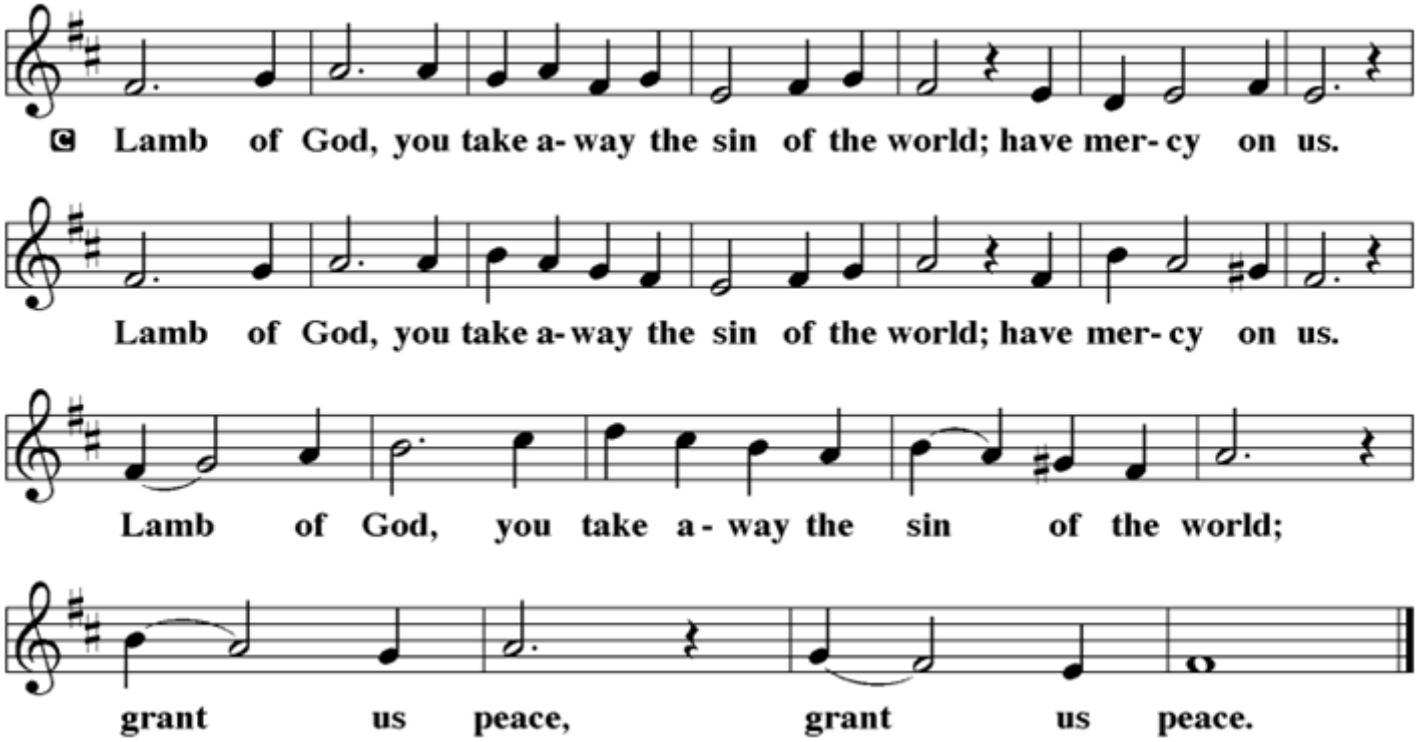


Words of Institution

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.

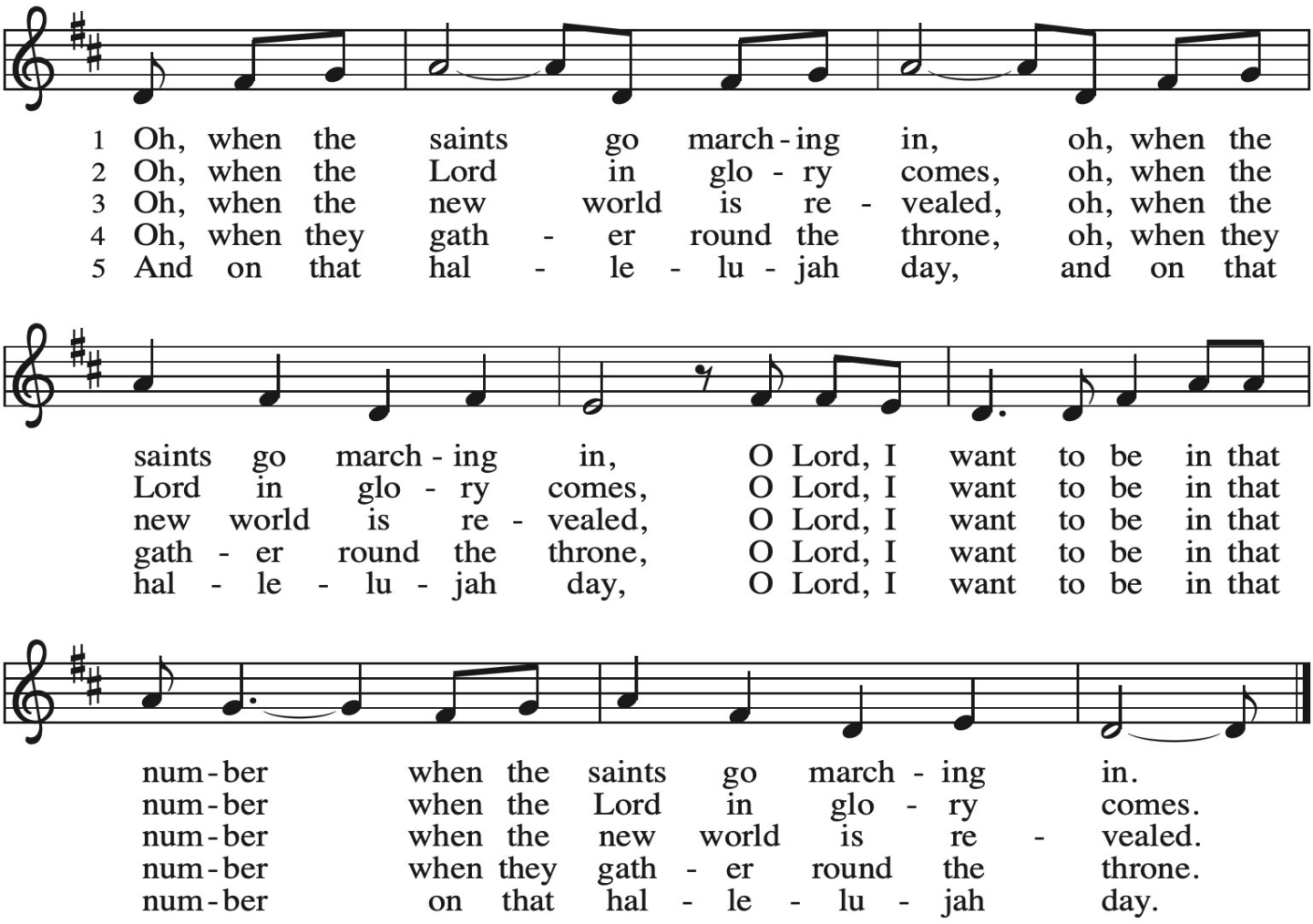
The Sending Prayer

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 ACS 950

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



Text: African American spiritual
Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

The Sending
Go out in joy. 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 1	Worship @ 8:45am, Coffee Hour
Sun Nov 8	Worship @ 8:45am

Reader Schedule	Communion Asst Schedule
11/1/2026 Beth Hart-Bader	11/1/2026 Jackie Kuntz
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

1 Joshua Allen

4 Heidi Guerin

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

The Lion's Club is collecting used sneakers to be turned into cash through a recycling program. The cash is then given to a woman who raises dogs for the blind. SNEAKERS ONLY - ANY CONDITION will be appreciated. You may leave them (labeled sneakers) in the St. John's entry way or call Gretchen La Brake (716-864-6408) for pick-up. Thank you!

Our Gifts to God: On Sunday, October 25th, 37 people attended worship, and the offerings given to the glory of God were $870. 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 of East Aurora

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.

Save the Date

Election Day Spaghetti Dinner 2026
@ St John's Lancaster
Tuesday, November 3rd from 4-7pm

The Women of St. John's Lancaster & Elma

would like your help to collect
school supplies for The Teacher's Desk.

A box is available in the narthex for collection. We will be collecting over the next several weeks and appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

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

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:

Family of Joe Gauthier Sr.
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)

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

For those in need of prayer:

Camille
Lorraine (health issues)
Cory (healing)
Michelle (healing)
Ashley Z. (Strength & healing)
Josh Wulf (cancer)
Randy Riel (health)
Alec Delamater
Dee & Dave Plott (strength & healing)
Dr. Bannister (healing)
Holly Hopkins Hicks (cancer recovery)
Delilah Rose (blessings & thanksgiving)
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)





For All the Saints





Hillary Breen
Walter Dryden
Christopher Elder
Vera Smith
Della Taber
Ronald C. Luders
Guy Walter
Earl Farris
Zaire Allison
Sue Schneider
Richard Allen



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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.*

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways (local places may be named). Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness *(especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors (Hillary Breen, Walter Dryden, Christopher Elder, Vera Smith, Della Taber, Ronald C. Luders, Guy Walter, Earl Farris, Zaire Allison, Sue Schneider, and Richard Allen). Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. 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.**