ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
NOVEMBER 22, 2026
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY—HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School
9:45 am – Sunday School
10:20 am – Youth Ensemble

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173
Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager
Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507
Church Office: 717-766-4482
Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com
Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM – Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Youth Ensemble
Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064
Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music
Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795
Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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OF MECHANICSBURG
NOVEMBER 22, 2026
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY—HOLY COMMUNION



GUESTS:
We would like to get to know you! Please complete a "Welcome to St. Mark Church" card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS
Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748
Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

PRELUDE
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name T. Fields

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24
P This is the day that the LORD has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.
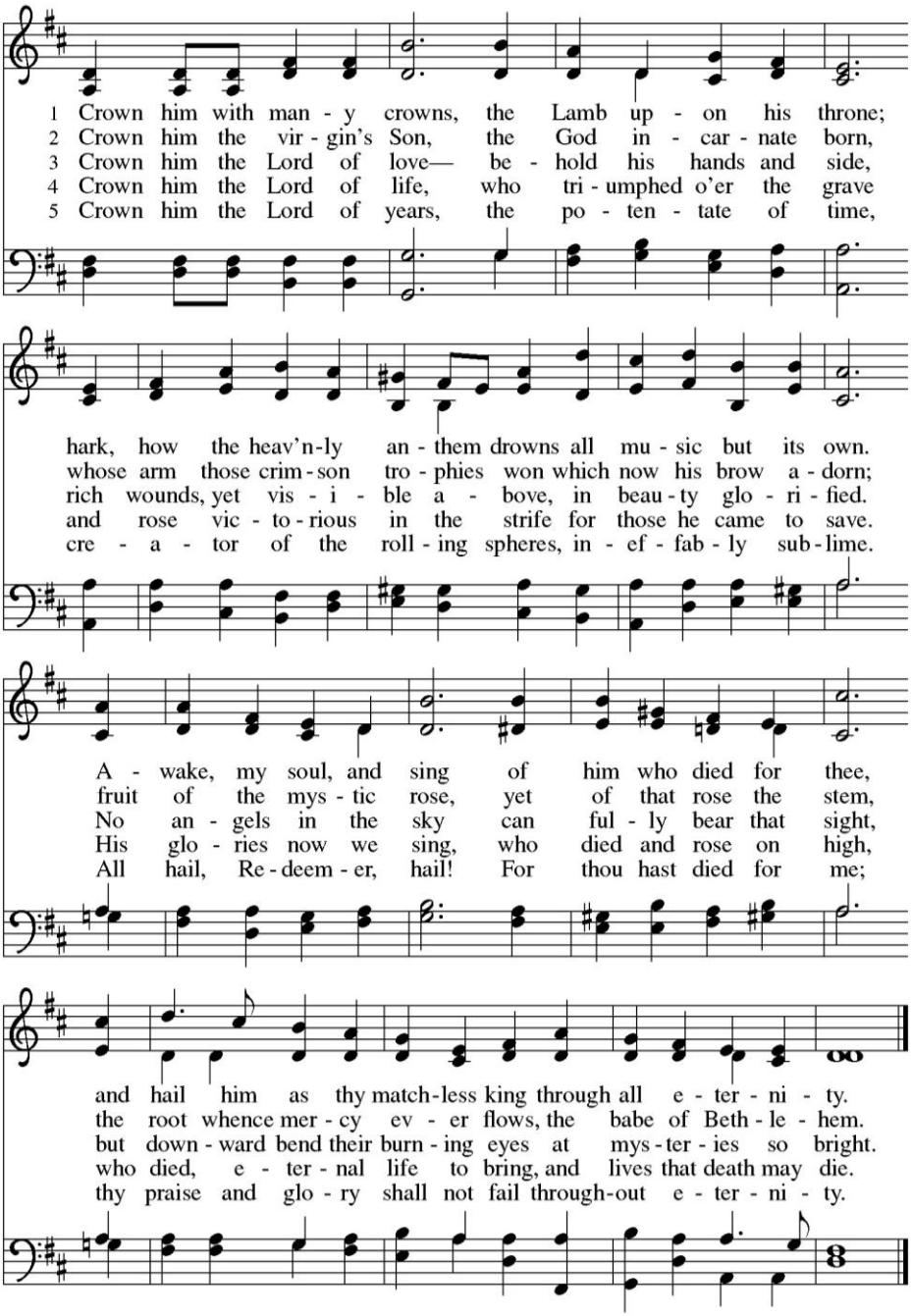
P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

Crown Him with Many Crowns



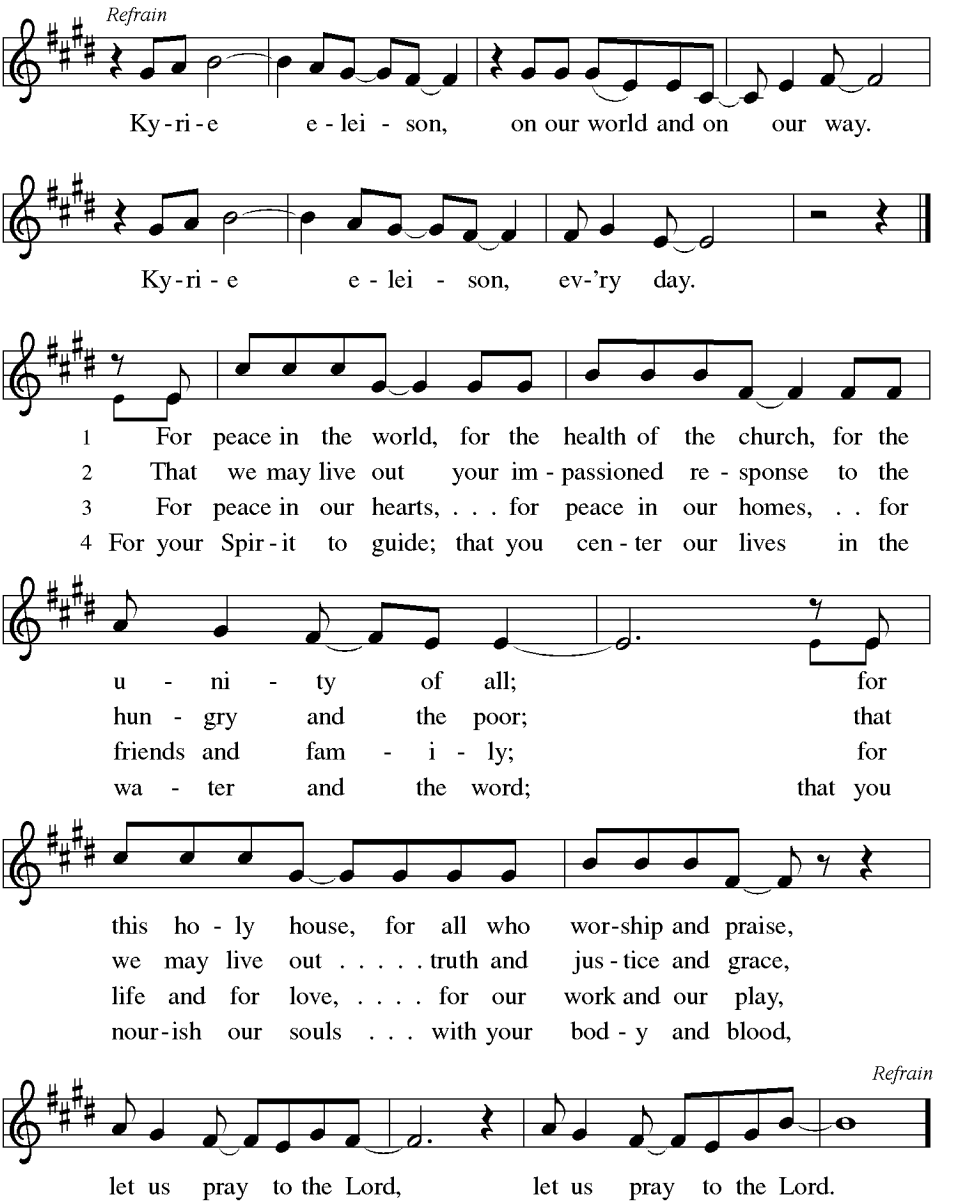
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

***GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
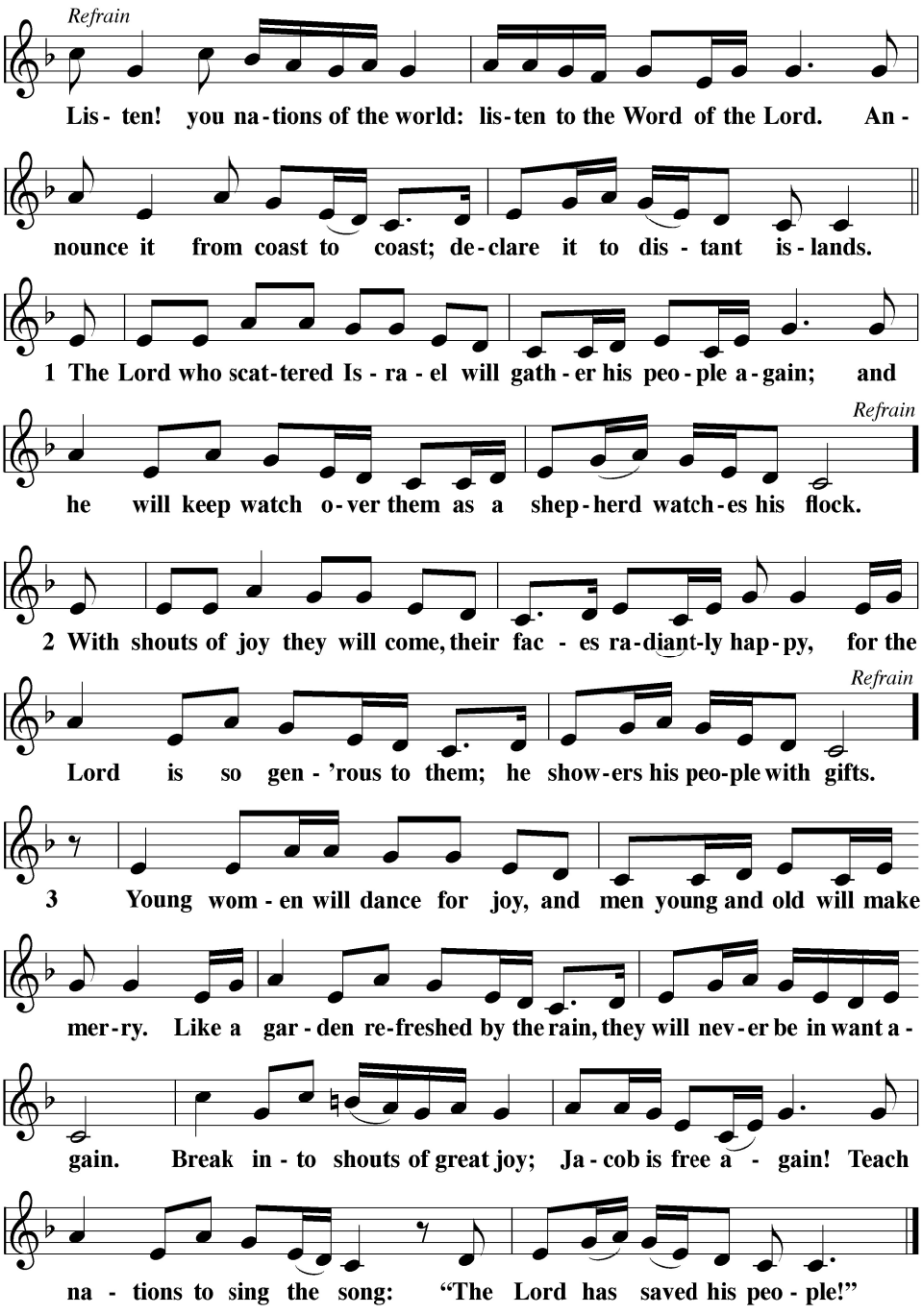
C And also with you.

***KYRIE**



***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Listen! You Nations



Text and music © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 5: Services of the Word*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

O Lord of Hosts, My God and King — Words by N. Jarvis/ Music by C. Courtney

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

R A reading from Ezekiel.

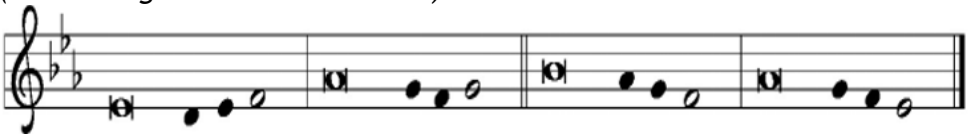
[11] Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort
them out. [12] As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among
scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all
the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and
thick darkness. [13] I will bring them out from the peoples and gather
them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will
feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all
the inhabited parts of the land. [14] I will feed them with good pasture,
and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they
shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture
on the mountains of Israel. [15] I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. [16] I will seek the lost,
and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will
feed them with justice.

(Continued next page)

[20] Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge
between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed with
flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns
until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they
shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall
feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord
will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I
the Lord have spoken.

R The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95: 1-7a
(Please sing the Psalm in unison.)



[1] Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

[2] Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.

[3] For the Lord | is a great God,
and a great King a- | bove all gods.

[4] In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,
and the heights of the hills | are his also.

[5] The sea is his, | for he made it,
and his hands have molded | the dry land.

[6] Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,
and kneel before the | Lord our Maker.

[7a] For he | is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.
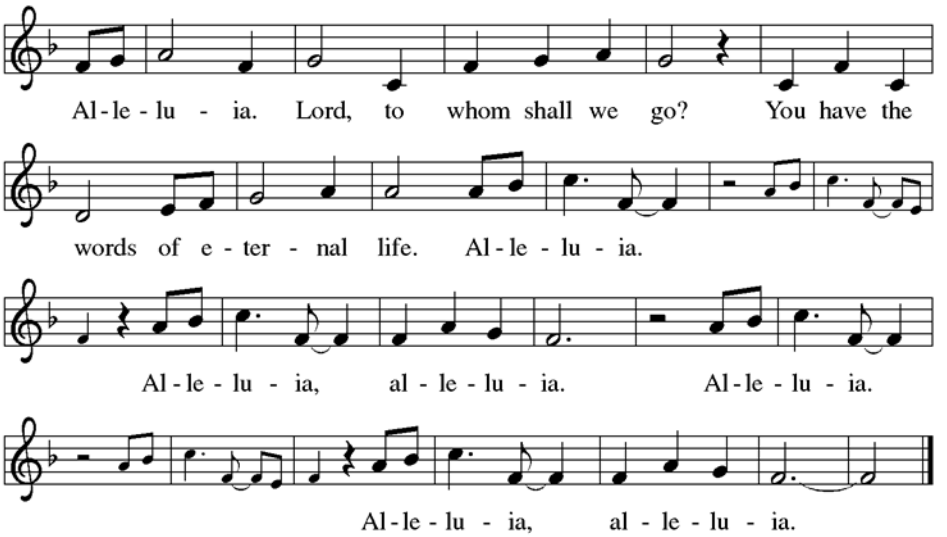
SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-23
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

R A reading from Ephesians.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all
the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I
remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as
you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart
enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called
you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who
believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this
power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated
him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and
authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all
things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the
church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory
and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate
people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the
goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the
left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who
are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from
the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I
was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and
you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick
and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the
righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And
when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and
gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison
and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just
as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who
are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the
devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was
thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did
not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in
prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or
sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer
them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of
these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal
punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

SERMON

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

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

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING
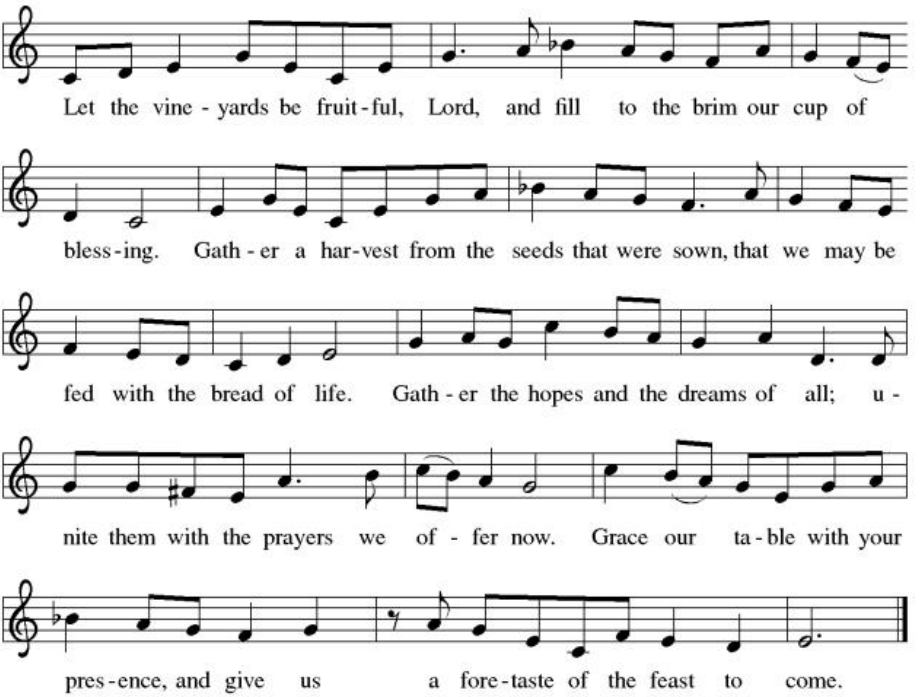
OFFERTORY

At the Name of Jesus R. Powell

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C Amen.

***PREFACE**

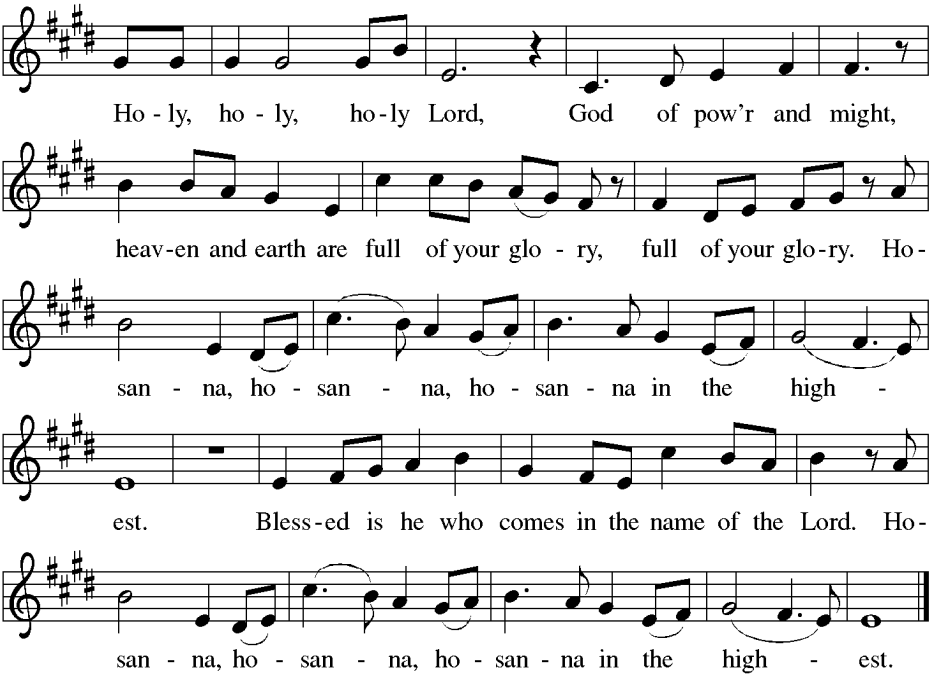
P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P 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:

***SANCTUS**



***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

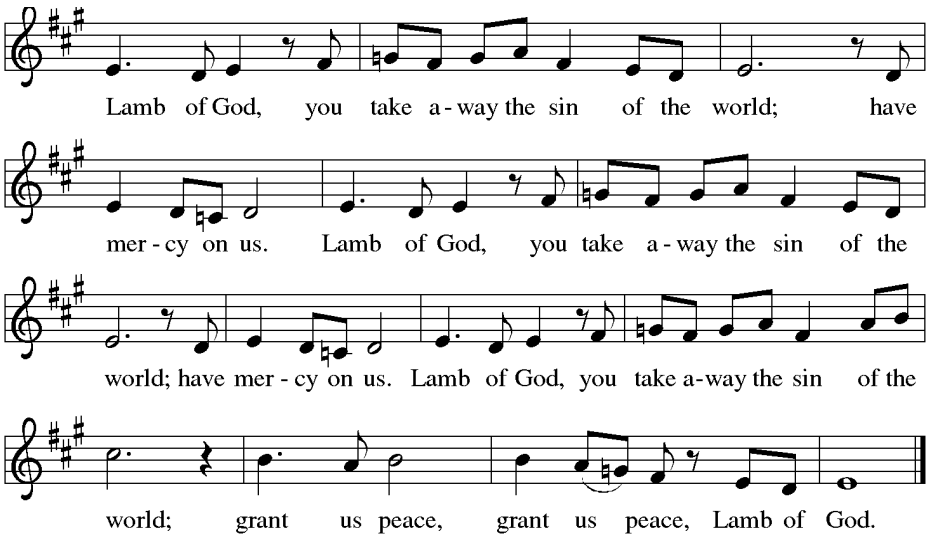
C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C 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.

***COMMUNION**

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



COMMUNION

All baptized, communion Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. We have gluten-free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine. Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.
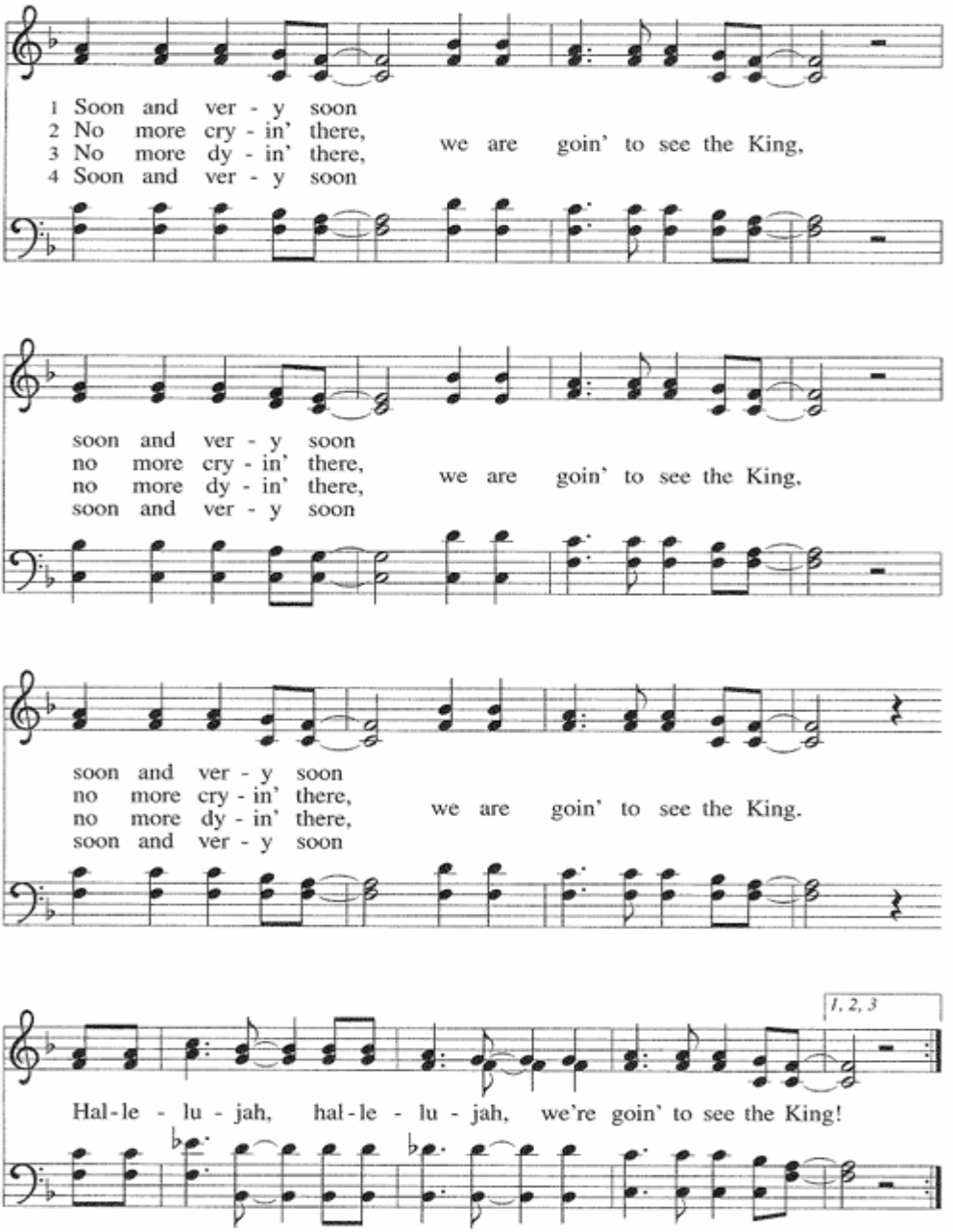
P The body of Christ, given for you.
C Amen.

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.
C Amen.

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

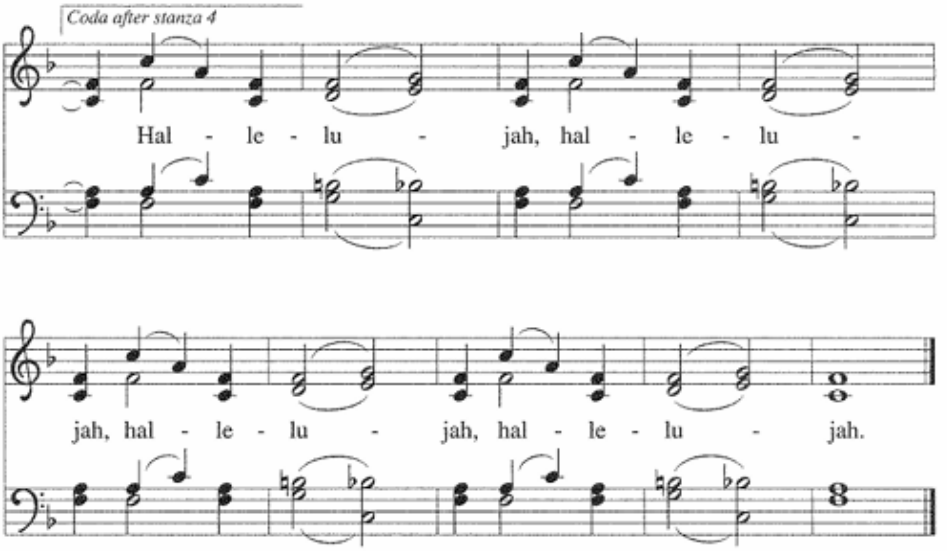
-HYMN OF THE DAY-

Soon and Very Soon
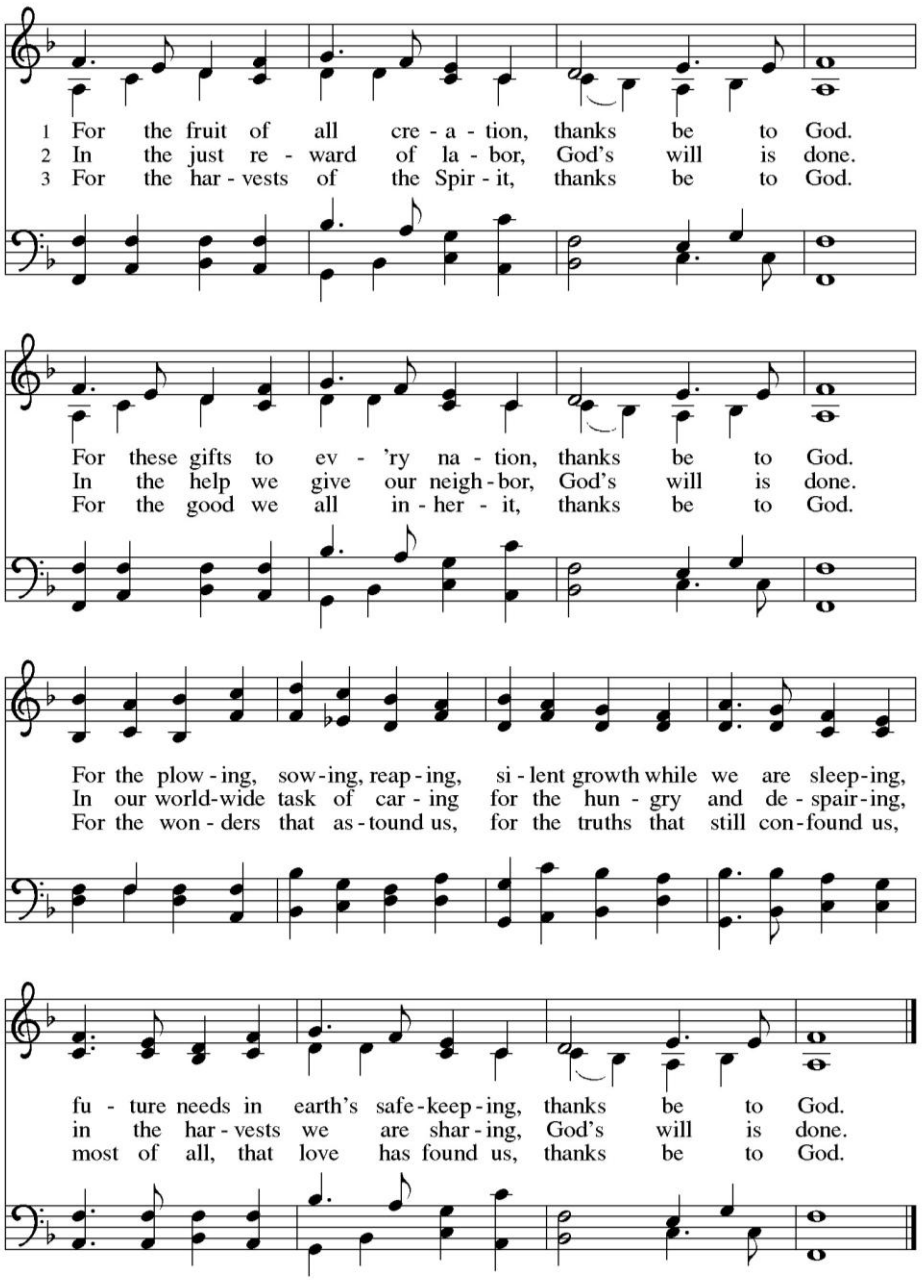


Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

VERY SOON
12 12 12 and refrain


Coda after stanza 4
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -
jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

-COMMUNION-

For the Fruit of All Creation



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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(Please stand as you are able.)

*P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.
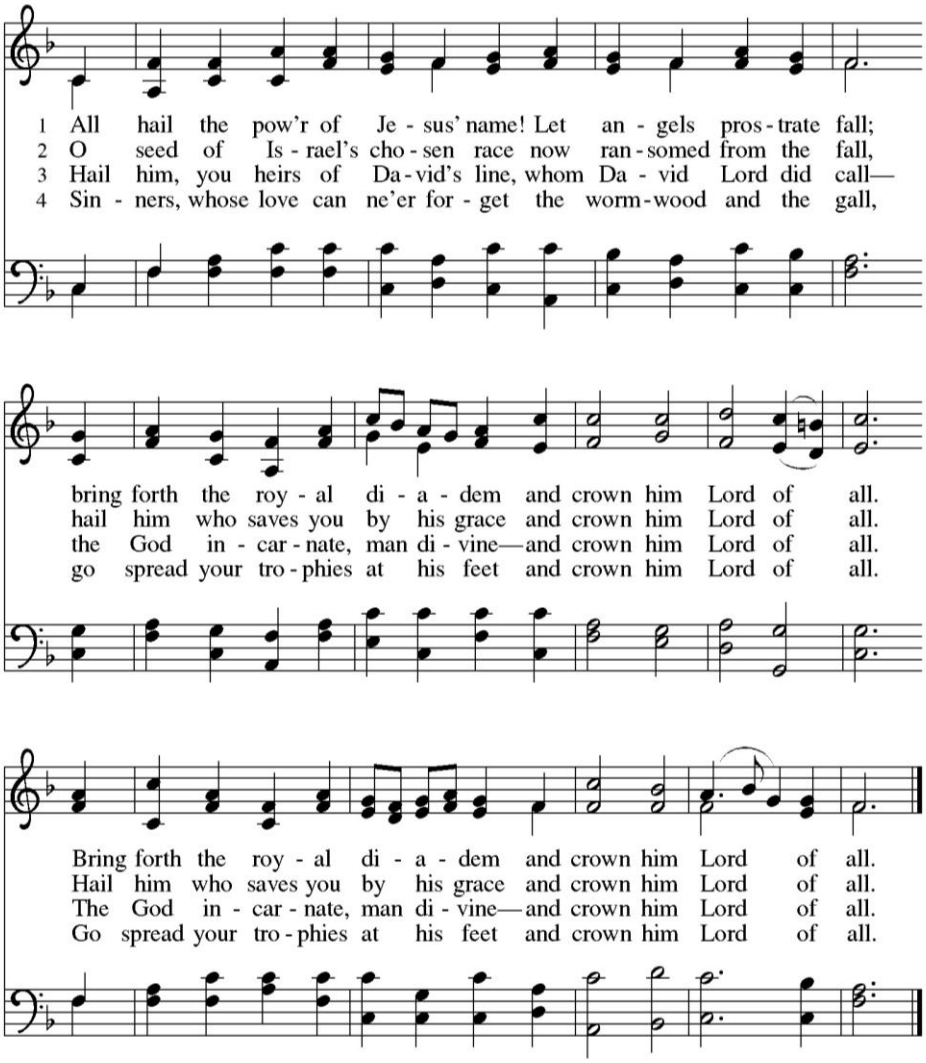
***BLESSING**

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Now Thank We All Our God J. Honore



In loving memory of Victor Reda by Muretta Yentzer

In memory of our parents, Ruth and Raymond Elicker, by Ben and Barb Yost

Altar flower sponsors are needed for January 2027.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Denise Hirn
Lay Reader:	Scott Kreiger
Acolyte:	Brett Hirn
Ushers:	Scott Kreiger, Deb Kreiger
Altar Guild:	Bev Reihart, Sara Jane Miller, Cindy Larkin
Zoom Operator:	Sandy Brown
Council Offering Duty:	Barb Yost, Amy Gimbel

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, November 22	**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY** **Pastor Marleen-Vacation;** **Rev. Eric Anderson officiating**
8:30 am	**Worship Service—Communion**
9:45 am	**Sunday Church School**
9:45 am	**Sunday School**
10:20 am	**Youth Ensemble**
12:00 Noon	**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**
Monday, November 23	
2:45 pm	**Violin Lessons**
7:00 pm	**German Group**
Tuesday, November 24	
1:00 pm	**Social Ministry**
Wednesday, November 25	
2:00 pm	**Social Ministry delivering meals**
Thursday, November 26	**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
1:00 pm	**Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark**
Friday, November 27	
2:45 pm	**Violin Lessons**
Saturday, November 28	
9:00 am	**Youth & Friends Cookie Baking followed by New Hope Shopping**
Sunday, November 29	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **GETTING READY SUNDAY** **NOISY SUNDAY**
8:30 am	**Worship Service—Communion**
9:45 am	**Sunday Church School**
9:45 am	**Sunday School**
10:20 am	**Youth Ensemble**
12:00 Noon	**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**
LESSONS:	**NOVEMBER 29, 2026**
FIRST READING	**Isaiah 64:1-9**
PSALM	**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**
SECOND READING	**1ST Corinthians 1:3-9**
GOSPEL	**Mark 13:24-37**

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

WELCOME
We welcome and sincerely thank Rev. Eric Anderson for officiating our worship service this morning while Pastor Marleen is away.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER
We are planning on celebrating Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mark this year on **Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.** Helpers are needed to set up, serve, clean up, and help wash dishes. We are soliciting donations of any kind of dessert. **To defray the cost of the meal, we are requesting donations of any amount.** Please make checks payable to St. Mark and write *Thanksgiving dinner* on the **outside of your envelope with the amount of your contribution.** Please contact the church office at 717-766-4482 to make a reservation ASAP. For additional questions or additional information, please contact Keith Hensel at 717-319-1199.

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS
On **Saturday, November 28**, there are two opportunities for our young people to prepare for Christmas by being generous to others. **We will gather at 9:00 am to bake cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry.** We bake for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministries so truckers and travelers can get a taste of Christmas while they are away from home. If you cannot join us but would like to donate premade cookies, bring them to the church by November 29.

After cookie baking, **we will be shopping for gifts for New Hope Ministry's Blessing Express. The group will have lunch together as well that day. Please contact Pastor Marleen at 878-295-2173 so that we know who is joining us that day.** Friends are always welcome to join us!

GETTING READY SUNDAY
Get ready for Advent by joining us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, November 29, at 9:45 am for Advent crafts and packing cookies for delivery to Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry to help share some Christmas joy.**

If you bake cookies for us to pack, please place them in the refrigerator or freezer labeled ***Truck Stop*** **by November 29** or bring them fresh that day. If you would like to package your cookies ahead of time, place 5-6 cookies in each Ziplock bag and label them ***Truck Stop***.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS
Christmas will be here before we know it. It is hard to believe that it is the time of the year when we are starting to plan for the upcoming holiday season. Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark. W**e are collecting gifts (mostly for teenagers) through Sunday, November 29.** Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are located at each entrance of St. Mark as well. Or pick an ornament(s) from the tree. Return your UNWRAPPED gift with the ornament attached and place in the containers or area around the tree. THANK YOU!

OPERATION WILDCAT (OW) NEEDS
Operation Wildcat is collecting basic household tools to help families in the Mechanicsburg School District. Operation Wildcat receives quite a few requests for simple, everyday tools. If you have extras or are looking for a reason to clean out and scale down, they would love to put them to good use. OW volunteers will be assembling tool kits for the families. A separate collection box is located at the back entrance of St. Mark.

We are currently looking for:

- Small toolboxes
- Hammer
- Tape Measure
- Screwdriver Set
- Pliers
- Adjustable Wrench
- Utility Knife
- Level
- Allen Wrenches

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP AT ST. STEPHEN
Advent is a busy time for everyone. We have many things to do to get ready for Christmas, but we never want to miss the more important preparation for the coming of Christ. **Join us on Wednesdays at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 30 W. Main St., News Kingstown,** to prepare for Christ's coming. **We will gather for worship at 6:00 pm with a light soup supper after worship**. This year we will continue our tradition of using Holden Evening Prayer as our liturgy. Our topic is Preparing in Christ's Presence. On **December 2**, we will ponder how we can "Do Less" as we prepare for Christmas. On **December 9**, we will "Experience Wonder" as we share some pictures of the wonder of God's works. On **December 16,** we will "Hold onto Hope" in the midst of the world's troubles.

We can use your help. Look for the wonder of God's works then take a picture of the wonder you find. Share your picture and one sentence about how this wonder inspires awe in God's works. Then send it to me

via email so that we can all see your pictures when we worship together. Please email me at revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com by December 1 to have your picture included. See you as we prepare together for the Advent of our Lord!
Pastor Marleen Griffith-Stull

DECORATING THE CHURCH
On **Saturday, December 5,** we will be getting our church ready for Christmas. Many hands make light work. Please mark this date on your calendars and plan now to **join us starting at 9:00 am** to trim the trees, hang the wreaths, and set up the Nativity. We chose December 5 in hopes that it will be a less hectic time for folks to come to help.
Please note, we want to keep the first few weeks in December focused on Advent, so while the trees are up, we will not be lighting them until Christmas Eve. The lighting of the trees will symbolize the welcoming of Baby Jesus.



November 26	**Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark**
November 28	**Youth Cookie Baking and Christmas Shopping**
November 29	**Getting Ready Sunday—Advent Crafts and Packing Cookies**
December 2, 9, 16	**Advent Svc. at St. Stephen**
December 5	**Decorate the church**
December 20	**Angel Story Intergenerational Christmas Program**
December 24	**Lighting of the Luminaries**
December 24	**Christmas Eve Services**
January 6, 2027	**Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles**
February 10	**Ash Wednesday**
March 25	**Seder Meal**
March 28	**Easter**

ANGEL STORY INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Gather in Fellowship Hall after service on December 20 to hear the "Angel Story," make your own angel tree topper/centerpiece, enjoy refreshments, and maybe sing a carol or two. Come join the fun!

PLANNING AHEAD—CHRISTMAS EVE

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
As we begin planning for the season of Advent, we also recognize that Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. We are seeking musicians of all kinds to add their talents for Christmas Eve. **There are two opportunities: 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm for the early service and 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm for the evening service.** Good news! You can volunteer for both. A simple musical offering of 2 to 3 minutes would be wonderful. Do you feel called to explore this possibility? Or perhaps you could reach out to a friend or family member that is musically inclined? Please plan ahead to ensure that we all can foster an atmosphere of peace, hope, and expectancy for Advent focusing on the spiritual meaning of the season by contacting Brad at bradleyjhull@gmail.com by **December 6.** In this way, we can direct our thoughts and spirits toward the season by having enough time to be well rehearsed. Additionally, should you be interested in joining the vocal choir to sing at our Christmas Eve service, rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please come and join us.



LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES
The lighting of the luminaries will begin at **3:15 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24.** The sponsorship form is located near the back of the newsletter and in bulletins.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:



4:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
There will be an early Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm following the lighting of the luminaries (special music at 3:45 pm.)

9:30 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service starting at 9:30 pm with special music beginning at 9:00 pm.

St. Mark will not hold services on Christmas Day. Please watch the bulletins and December newsletter for a list of churches that will conduct worship on Christmas Day.

-WORD SEARCH-

CHRIST THE KING



WORD LIST

ANOINT
CHRIST
DAVID
DONKEY
FIRSTBORN
HEAVEN
HEROD
ISRAEL
JERUSALEM
JESSE
JESUS
JUDAH
JUSTICE
KING
KINGDOM
LAMB
LION
OIL
PEACE
POWER
REIGN
SAMUEL
SAUL
SCEPTER
SOLOMON
STAR
THRONE
WORSHIP
ZEAL
ZION

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS



If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia(s) to be placed in the chancel for Christmas or donate money to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels, please complete the form below. The cost of each poinsettia is **$13.00** for a red poinsettia in a 6" pot that will have at least four blooms. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 6. Separate checks** should be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church and be sure to put **Altar Guild on the memo line**. Please place your check with your order in the offering plate.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

☐ **POINSETTIA** ☐ **MEALS ON WHEELS**

☐ **In honor of** _____

☐ In **memory of** _____

☐ **To the Glory of God**

~~~~~~

Presented by _____

☐ **Deliver to Shut-in**

☐ **Will pick up after worship service on Christmas.**

_____**Total number of Poinsettias ordered**

Amount of Check _____
~~~~~~

SPONSOR A LUMINARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2026



We are offering you the opportunity to sponsor a luminary for $5.00. Every dollar collected will be donated to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels.

We will place your name on the luminary bag(s) along with the information you provide below.

We will begin the lighting of the luminaries at 3:15 pm on Christmas Eve. You are welcome to join us and light the luminaries that you sponsor, or we will light them for you. Worship services will be held at 4:00 pm (special music starting at 3:45 pm) and 9:30 pm (special music starting at 9:00 pm).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES

Total number of luminaries sponsored _____

☐ **I will come and help light luminaries at 3:15 pm.**

☐ **In honor of _____**

☐ **In memory of _____**

☐ **To the Glory of God**

Sponsored by _____

Check amount _____

Please make checks payable to *St. Mark Lutheran Church* and note "*luminary sponsor*" on the memo line no later than December 6.

LECTIONARY 34

CHRIST THE KING

JESUS' LEADERSHIP STYLE

Many workplaces invite staff members to determine their unique leadership styles through inventories or assessments. Countless resources are available to aid this process, from short online quizzes to lengthy books that probe people's motivations for leading in particular ways. The results of these assessments can reflect how people's personalities and values interact with their natural skills and gifts. When coworkers discuss the results together, they can determine how best to work as a team, playing to one another's strengths.

On this Christ the King Sunday, we might ponder this question: What is Jesus' leadership style? The gospel writers offer countless examples of Jesus leading his ragtag community of followers. He shares meals, preaches and teaches, offers healing, and sometimes gets into hot water with religious and political authorities. Looking at different facets of his ministry, we might say his compassion and relational strength shine through in moments of one-on-one connection and healing; his strong teaching presence and communication gifts dominate during lengthy discourses like the Sermon on the Mount; his generous hospitality stands out in the miracles of multiplication and in countless meals shared with people of all sorts.

Today's gospel reading presents a very particular side of Jesus, which we might add to this list of his leadership qualities: He is a visionary, prophetic advocate for justice. His instructions to feed, clothe, and visit people who live on the margins offer us an image of Jesus that challenges his followers to follow the call to work for justice. How do Jesus' strong words move us to live differently? How will we and the church respond to the call to justice that echoes through the ages?

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