First Lutheran Church
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY IN CHRIST
ELCA
130 W. Holland St., San Marcos, TX • 512-392-2064 • www.flcsm.org

October 25, 2026: Reformation and Written on Our Hearts

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Organ Prelude

The prelude is a time of preparation for worship in the sanctuary. Help preserve the sanctuary as a meditative space for yourself and those around you.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the confession begins.

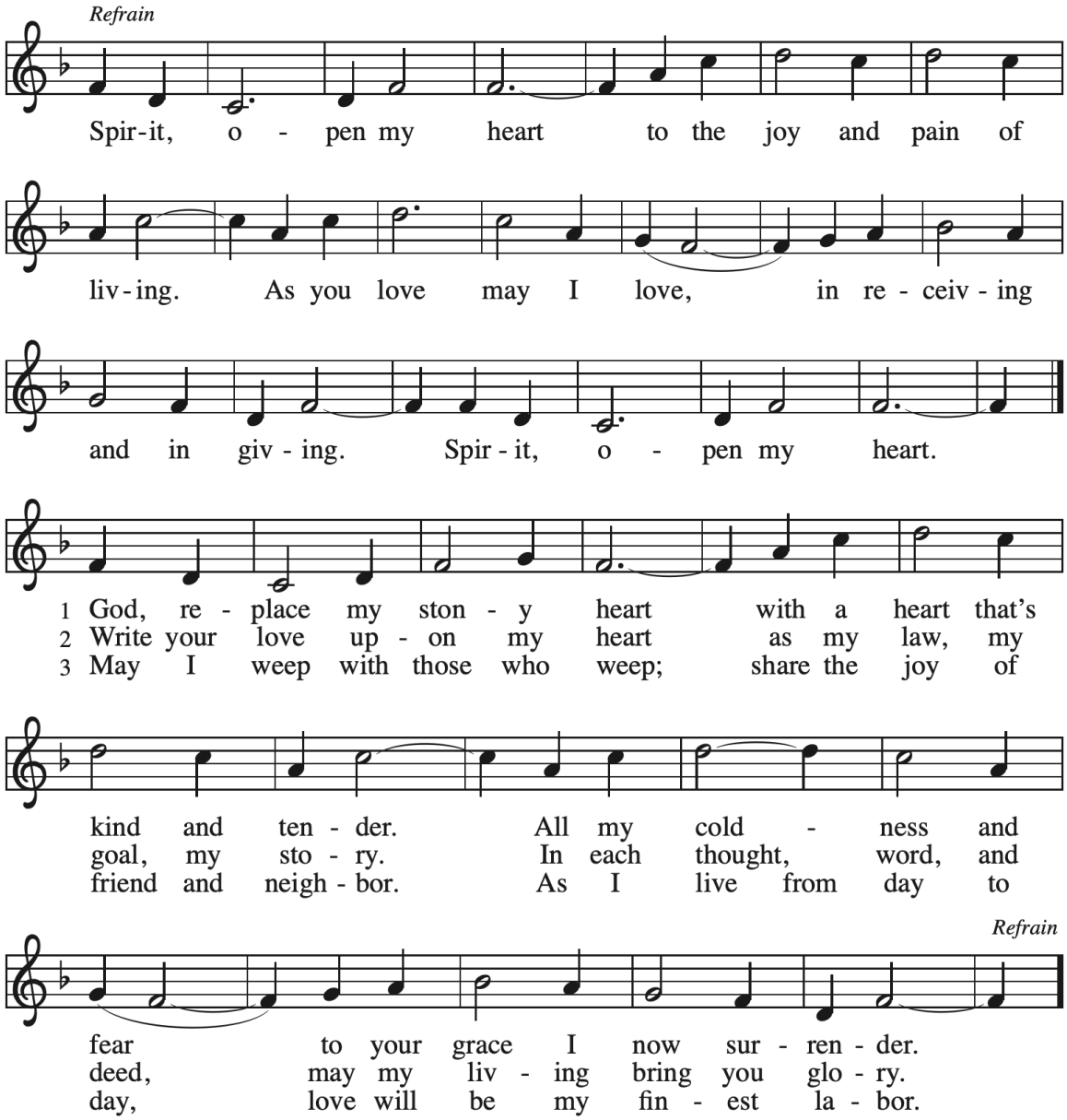
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Where you would write love, we inscribe fear and self-interest.
We profess our love for you, yet withhold that love from our neighbors.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
Hear this good news:
In Christ, God rewrites what we have written upon our hearts,
inscribing instead a love that leads us to love our neighbors
as we ourselves have been loved by God.
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Gathering Song

Spirit, Open My Heart (ACS 1043)

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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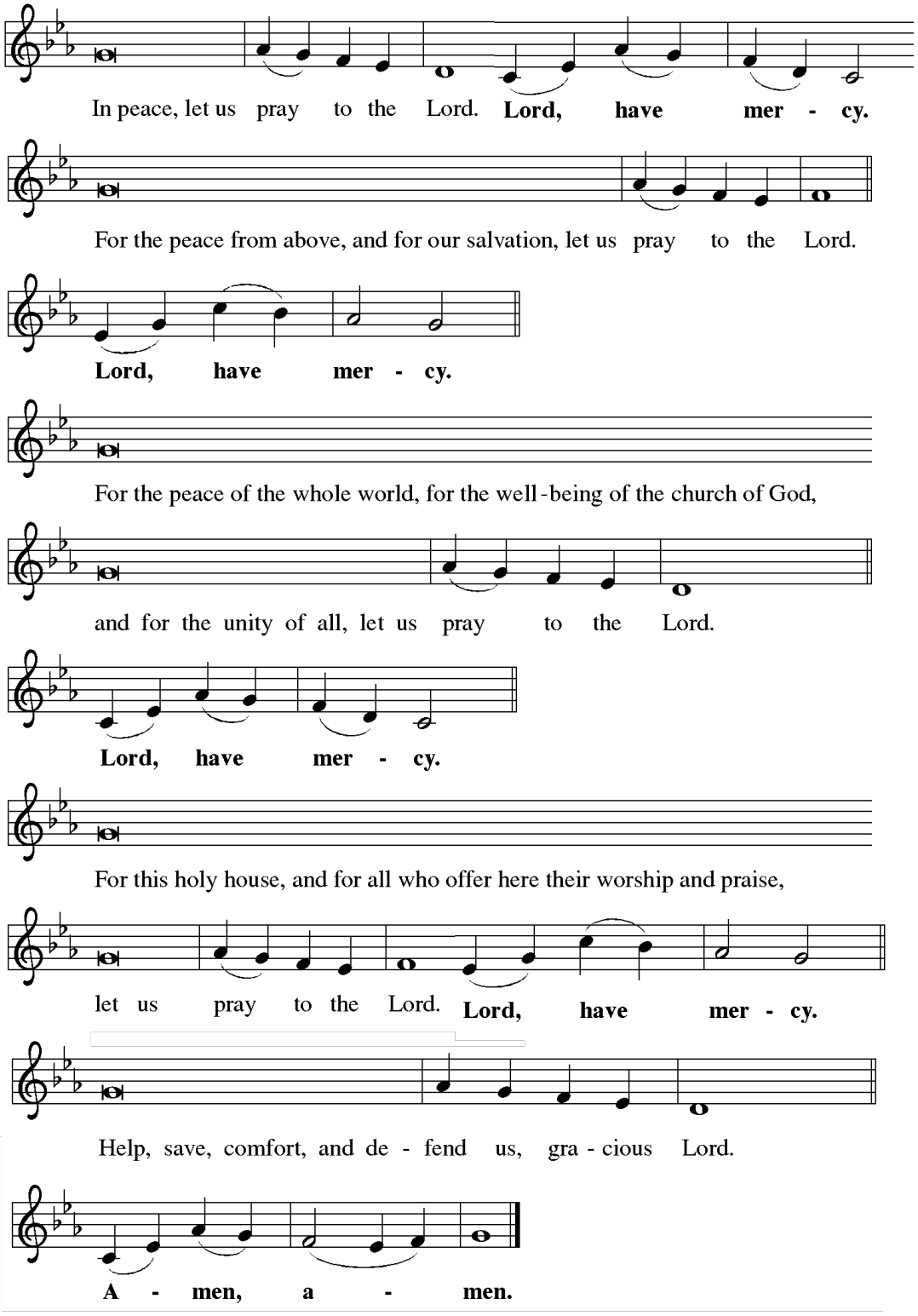
Greeting

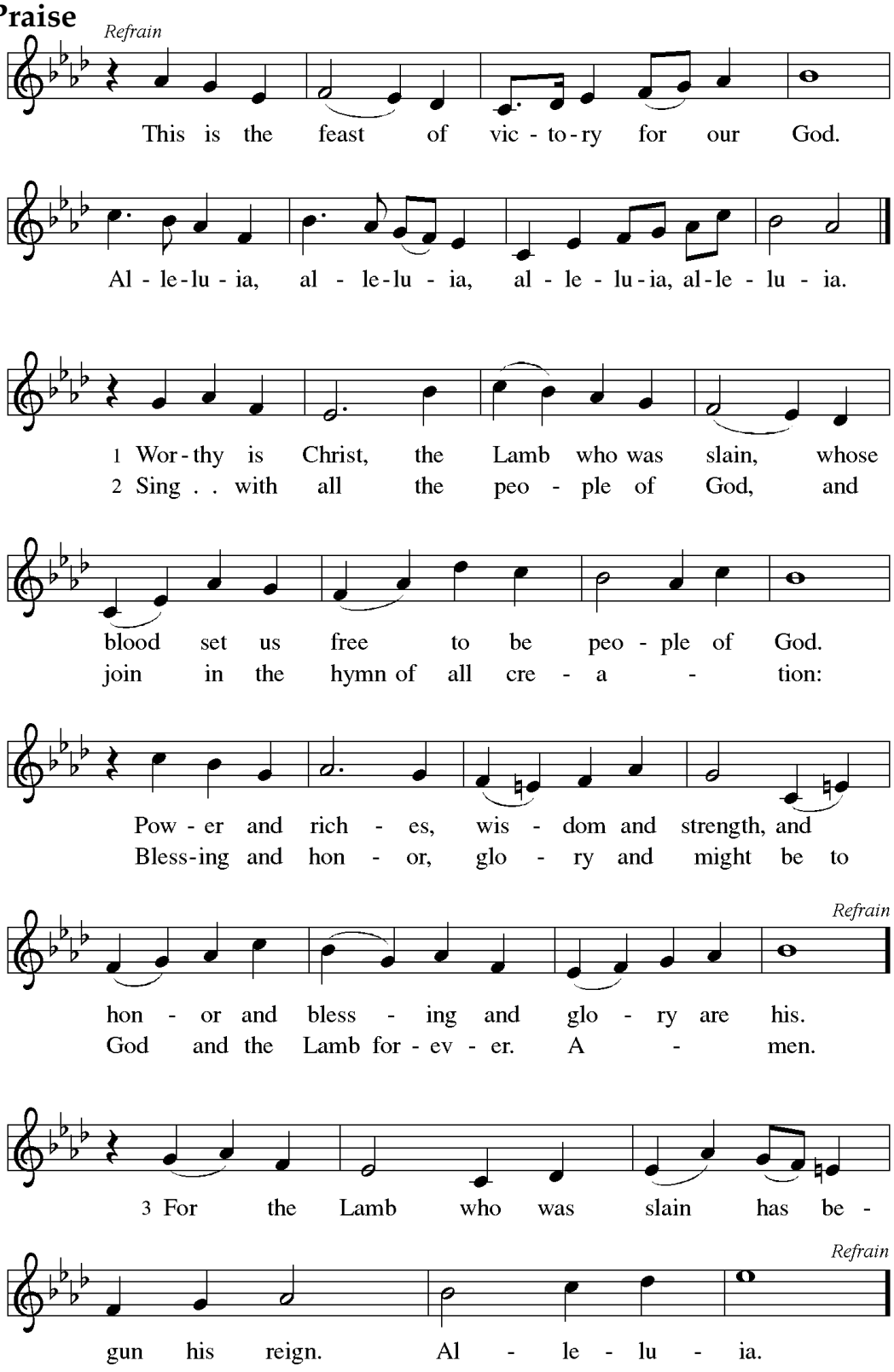
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".



Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

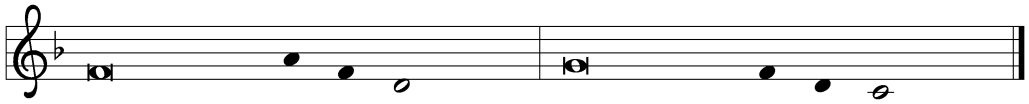
First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took
them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their
husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their
God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know
the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will
forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46



1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
3 though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
6 **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
7 The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
8 **Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
10 **"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
11 The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

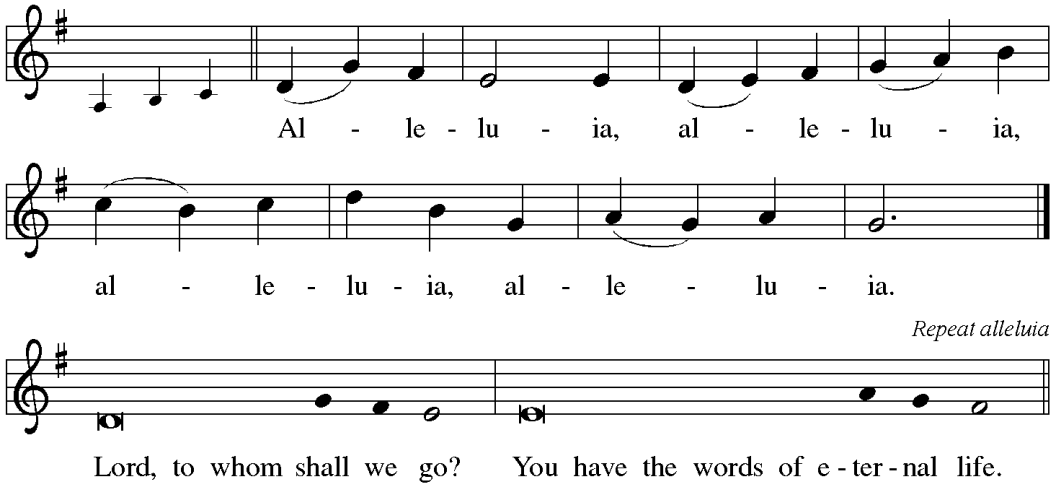
19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every
mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be
justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law
and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For
there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified
by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a
sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to
demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one
who has the faith of Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No,
rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works
prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel using the words of Peter in John



Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

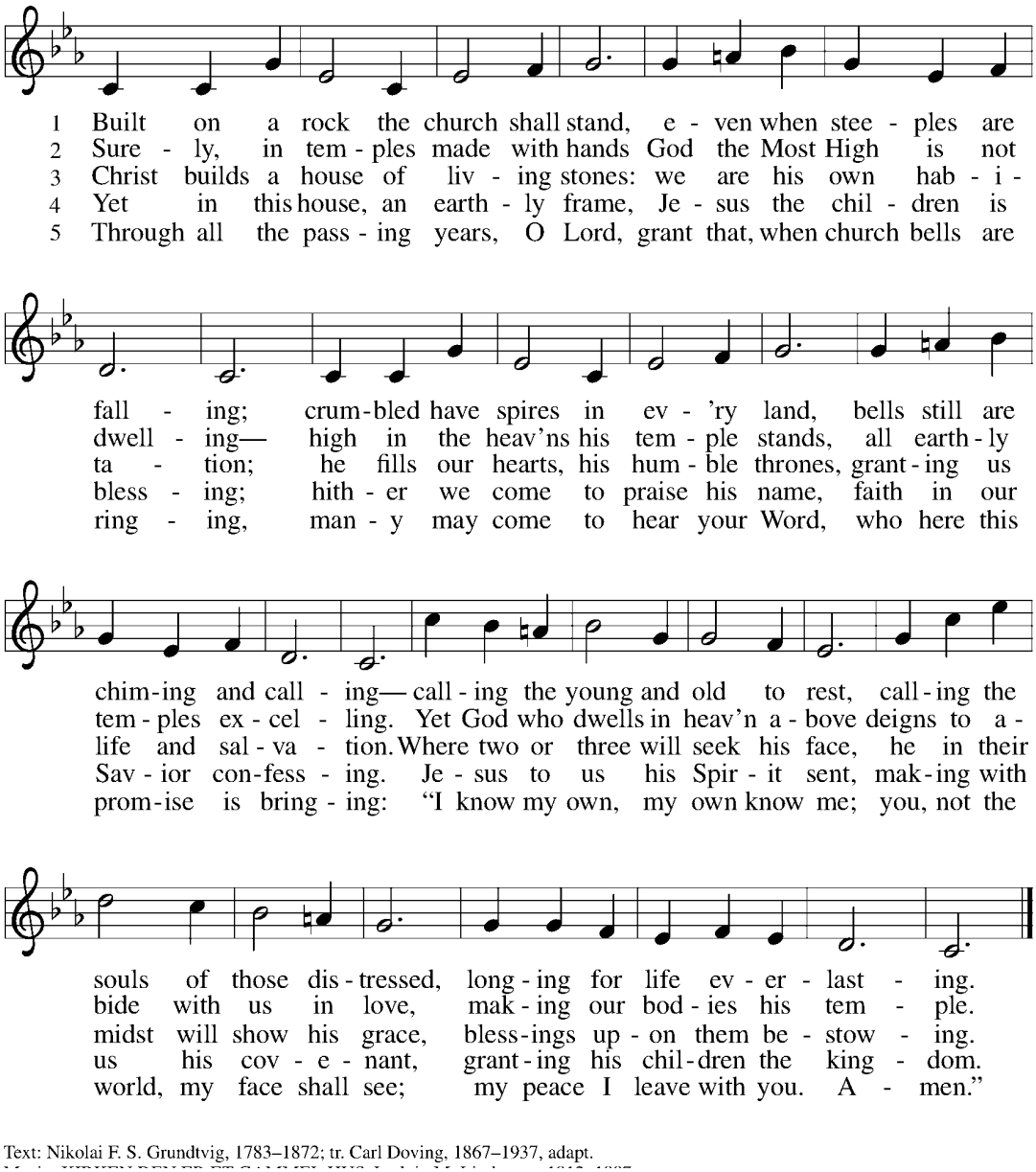
The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of
them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law
is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like
it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."
41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What do you
think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How
is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '?
45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor
from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Built on a Rock (ELW 652)

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.

Creed

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

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 to the dead.* 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.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with the words "Hear us, O God" *and the assembly responds with* **"Your mercy is great."**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Anthem: A Mighty Fortress

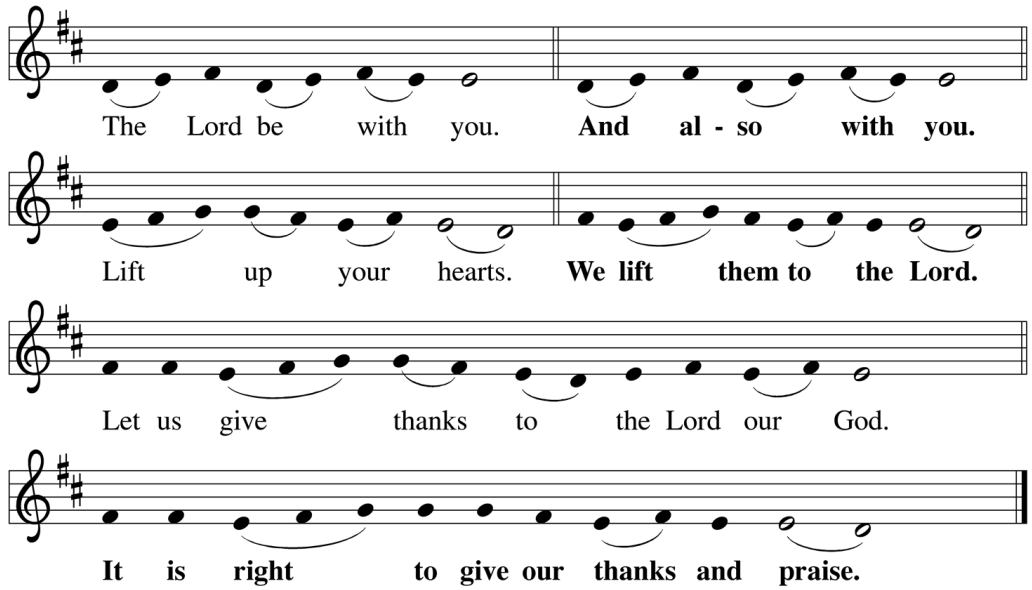
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory Prayer

Giving is an act of worship and stewardship, supporting the ministry and mission we share. Offerings may be placed at the welcome table at the building entrance, where information about electronic giving is also available. Thank you for your generosity and faithful support.

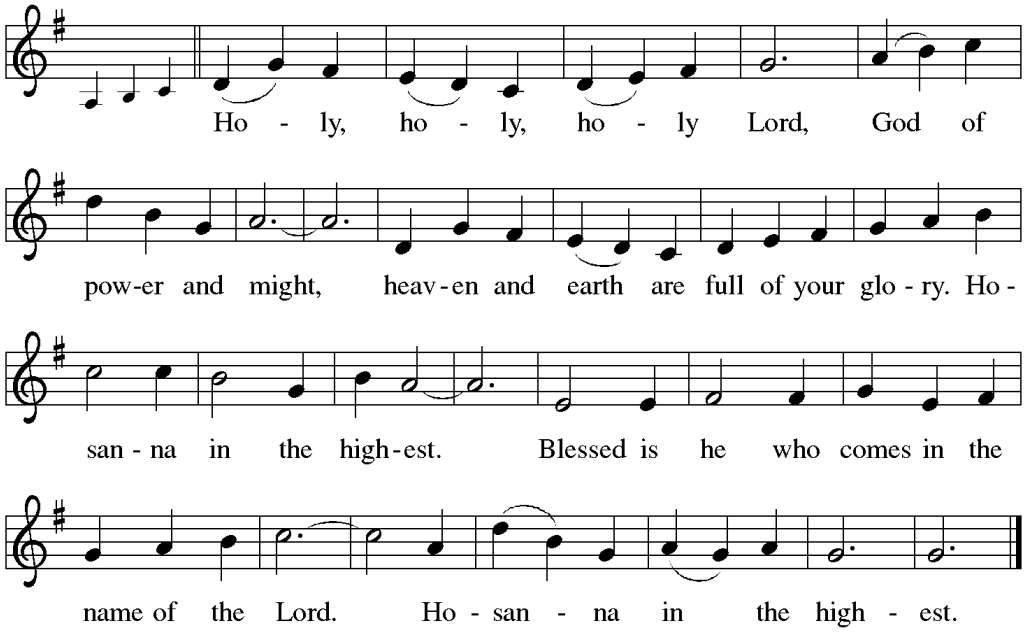
Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

This song draws from Isaiah 6:3, the vision of the Heavenly Throne room and from Matthew 21:9, the shouts of the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In the liturgy it recognizes uniting our earthly worship with the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



Thanksgiving At The Table

The prayer of consecration ends with the Lord's Prayer, introduced with the words:

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, which gathers to pray as Jesus taught us:

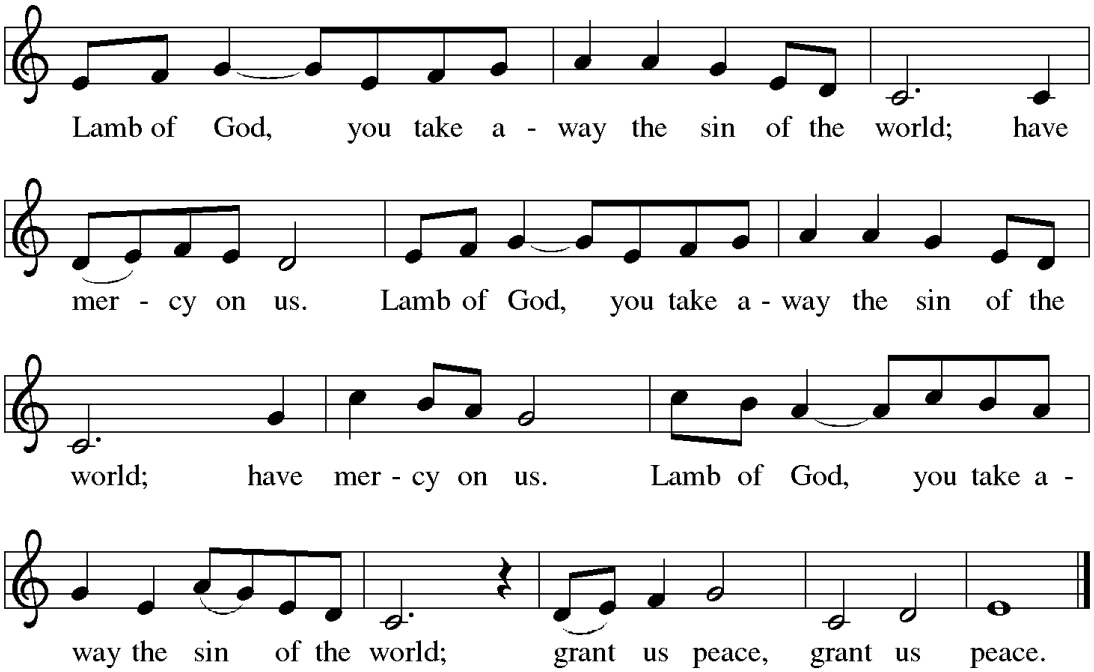
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

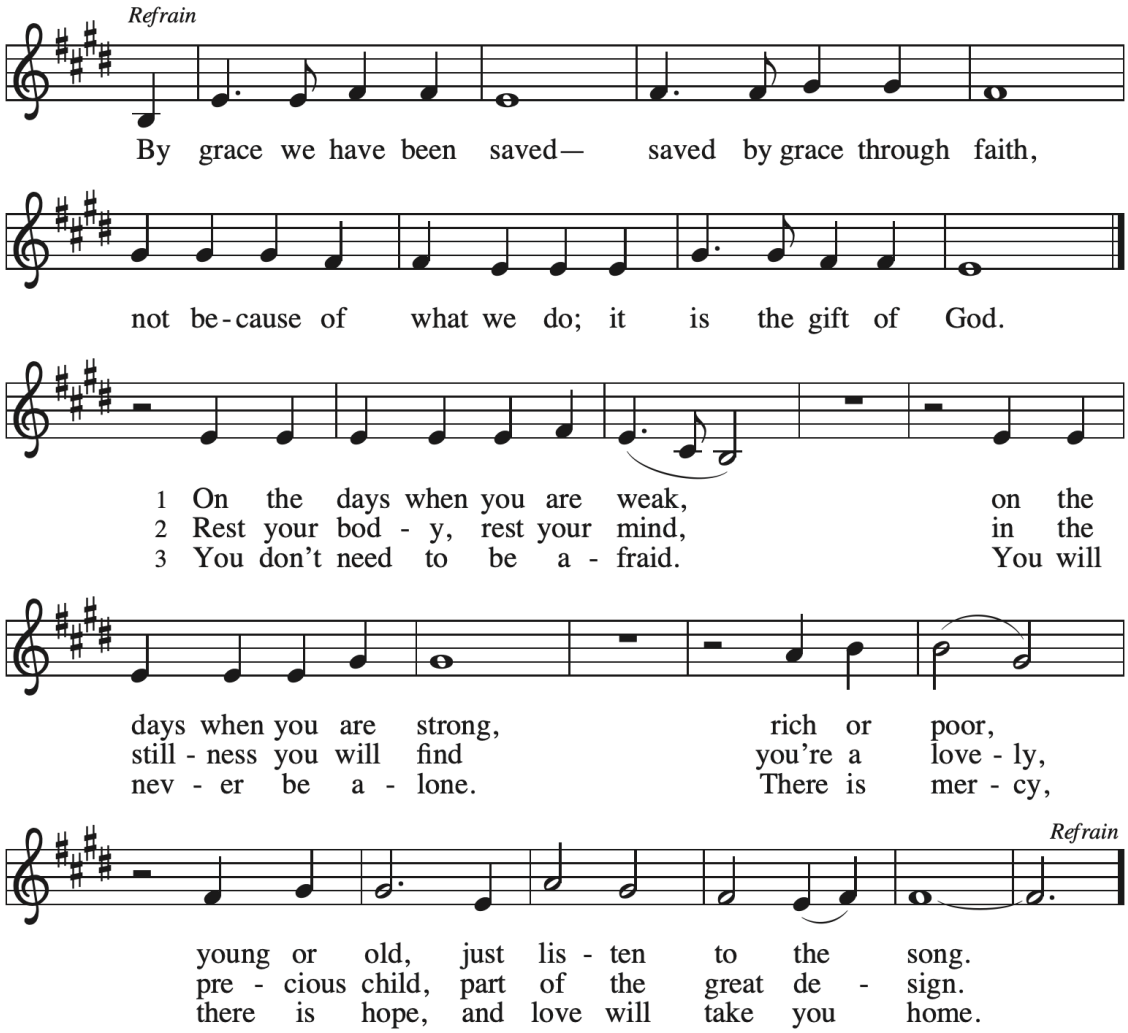
We believe that God's grace is for all people, and that open sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion is a visible sign of that. At First Lutheran, all are welcome at the table. The wafers are gluten-free. In the trays there is both wine (red) and grape juice (clear). You may kneel or stand. If you wish to receive communion in the pews let the ushers know that and we will come to you after those who come forward are served.

Lamb Of God

This song, sung as the host is elevated and broken and the meal is shared, is an echo of John the Baptist's words when he recognizes Jesus in John 1:29.



Communion Song

By Grace We Have Been Saved (ACS 1006)

Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971
Music: BY GRACE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman
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Music © 2006 Nathan Houge and Lutefist (ASCAP), and Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Prayer after Communion

Benediction

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

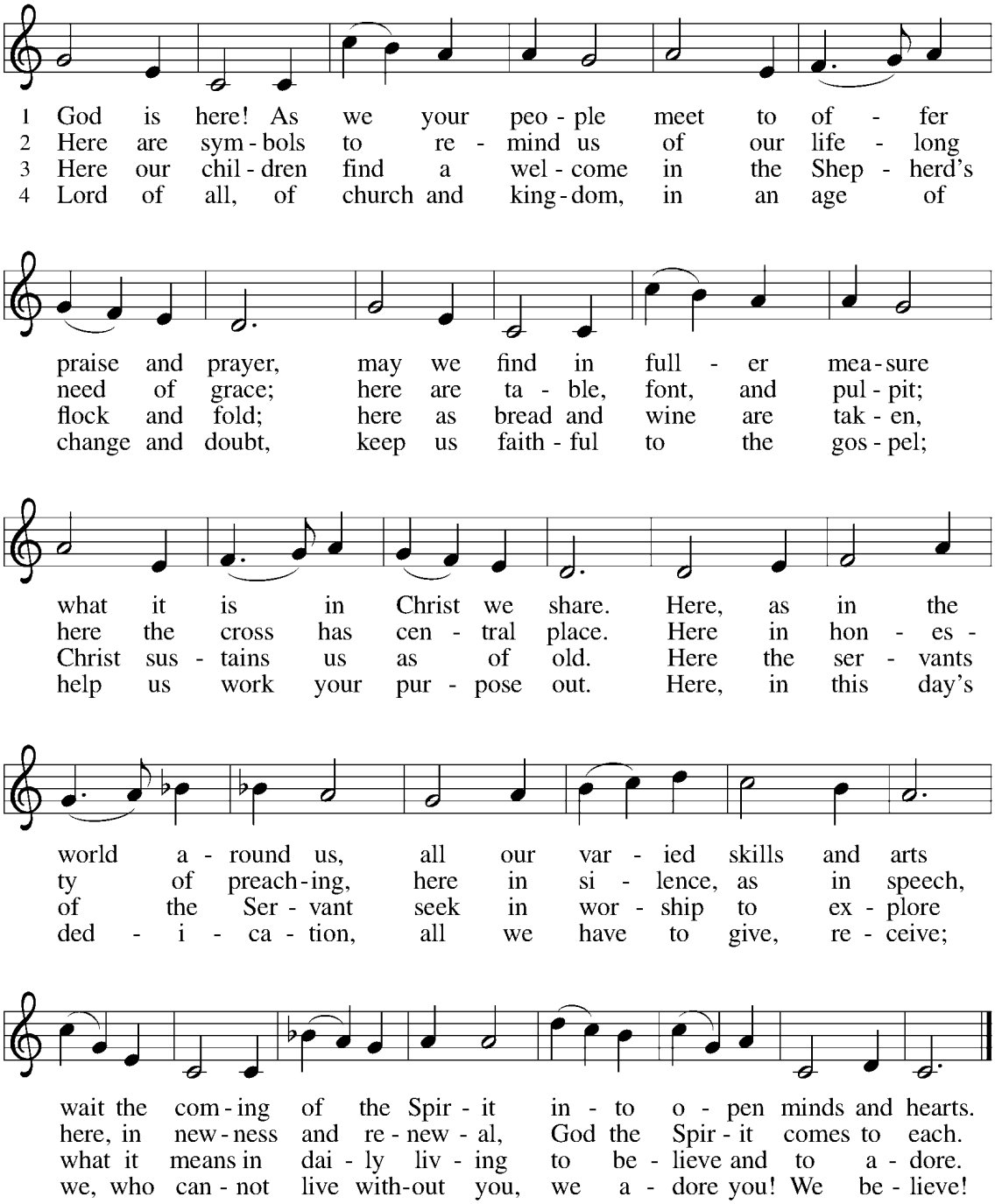
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✢ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

God Is Here! (ELW 526)

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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