First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Tracy S. Megli

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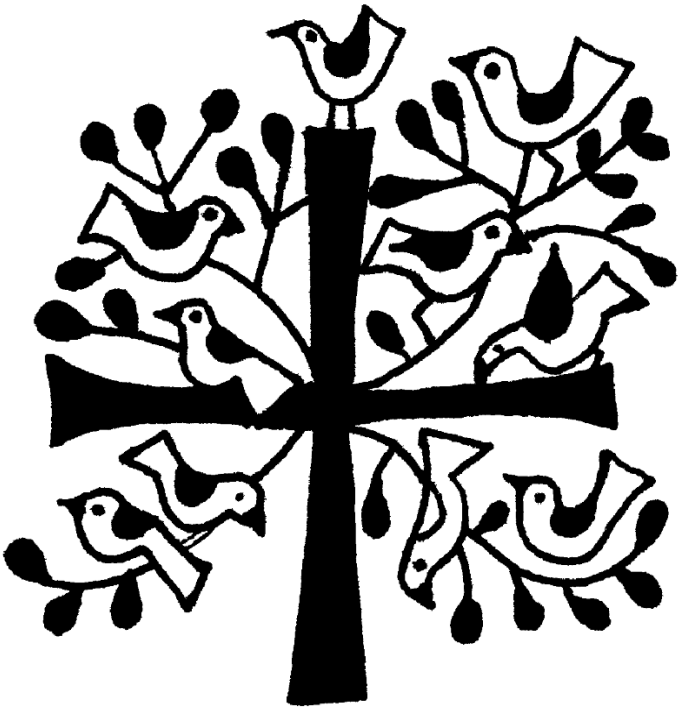


Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2026

9:30 am

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

First Lutheran church **strives to inspire hope**
for a wounded world;

Gathers in worship
that both **uplifts** and **challenges**;

And **builds life-affirming relationships**
inside and outside the walls of our building.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, First Lutheran Church
welcomes all because God welcomes all,
and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.

Sunday Morning Worship
November 22, 2026

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.

First Reading: Ezekiel 134:11-16, 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.

Second Reading: 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.

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.

Prelude *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor*

Please stand when the (*) indicates standing. Know the communion of Saints, both living & departed, stand for you if you should choose to remain seated for any reason.

Welcome All

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

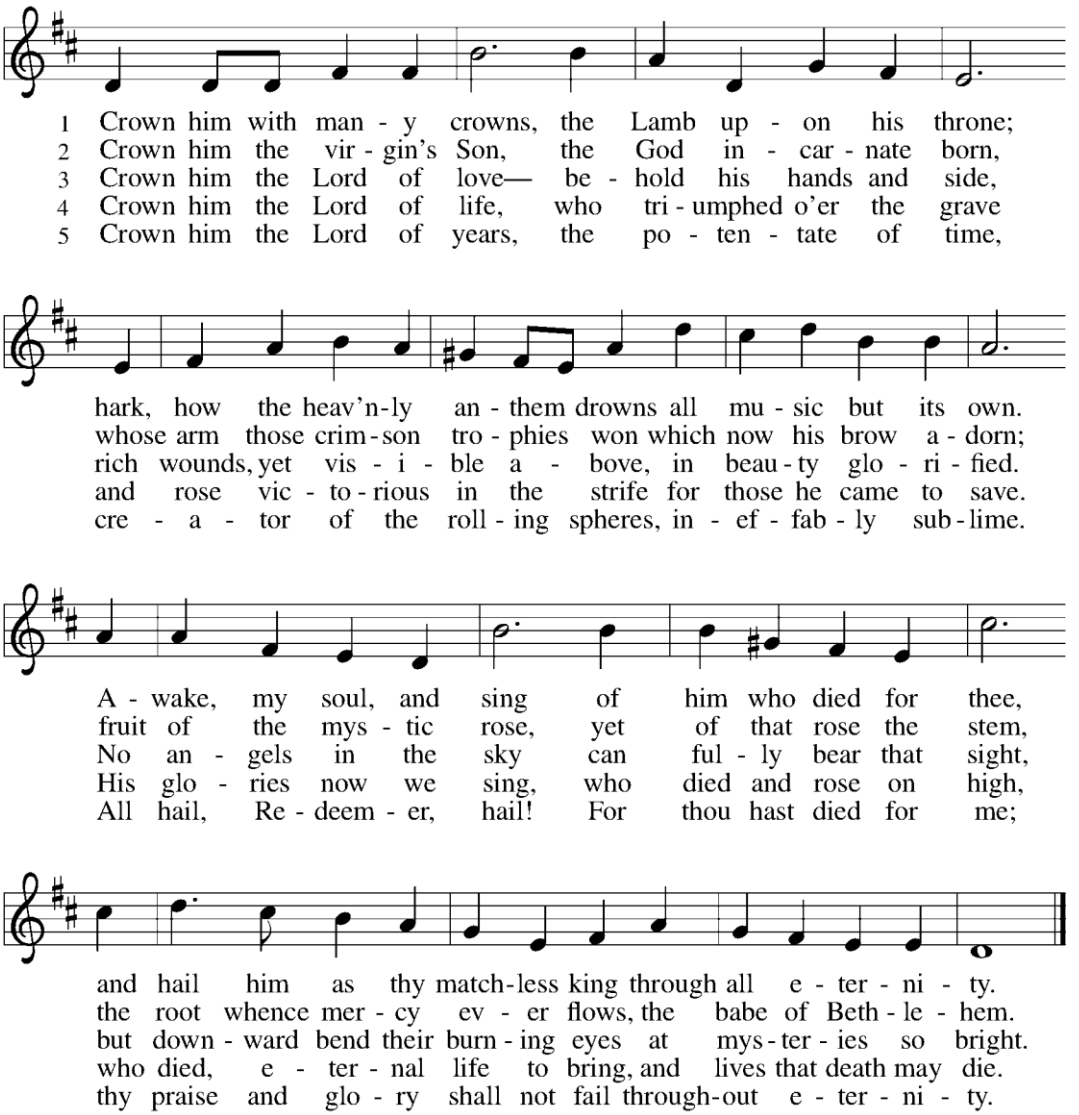
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

*The Gathering Song *Crown Him with …* *ELW 855*



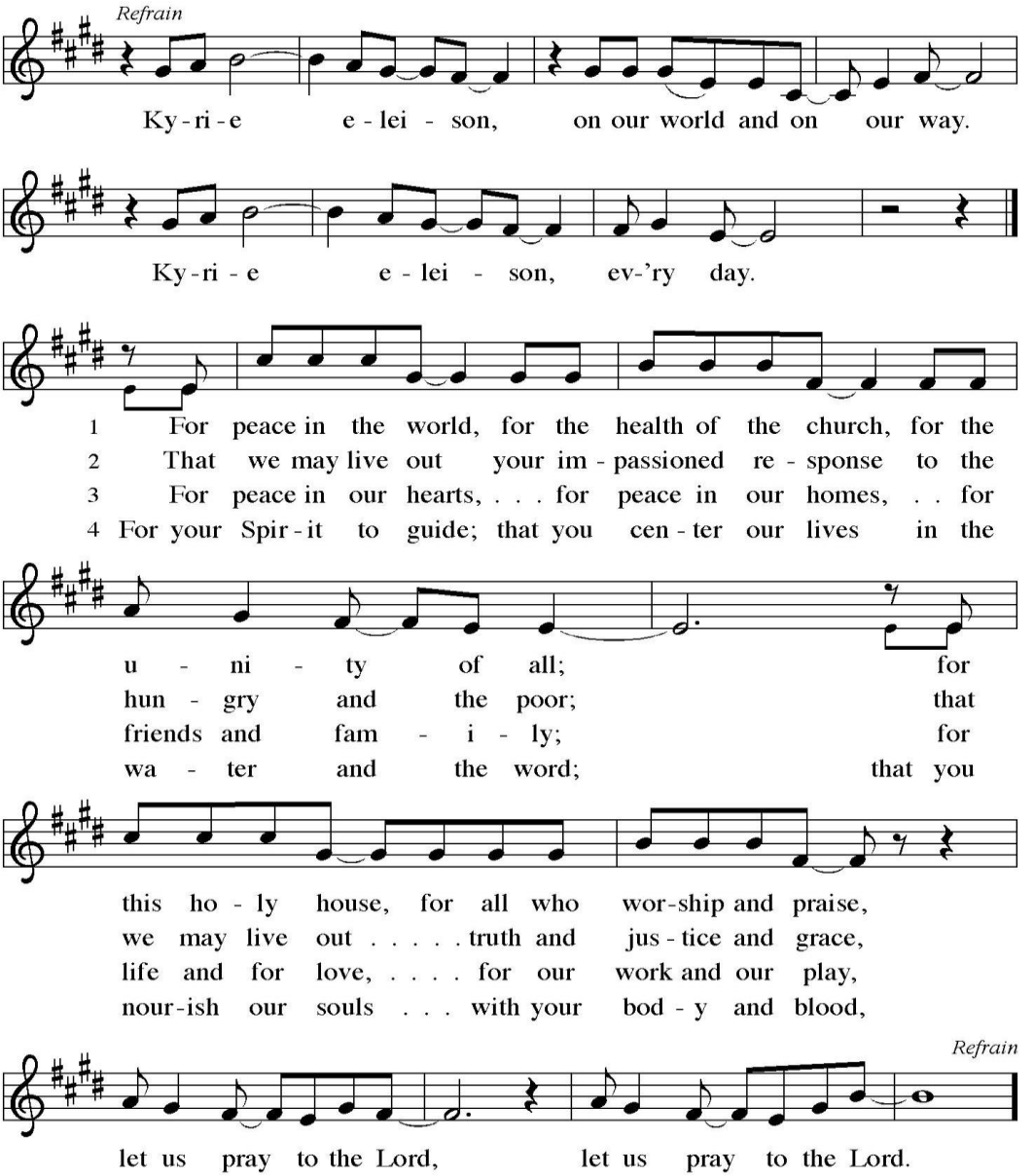
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

*The Pastoral Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

***Kyrie** *ELW Setting 8*



*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

P: 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.

A: Amen.

The First Reading Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24

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.

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.

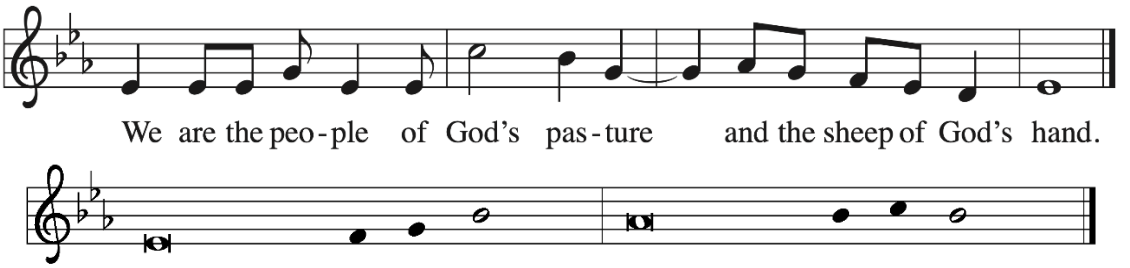
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God,
and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a *(sung responsively)*

The accompanist will introduce the refrain, followed by the Cantor singing it once. Then the congregation sings it with the Cantor. R indicates repeat the refrain.



1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
7a For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

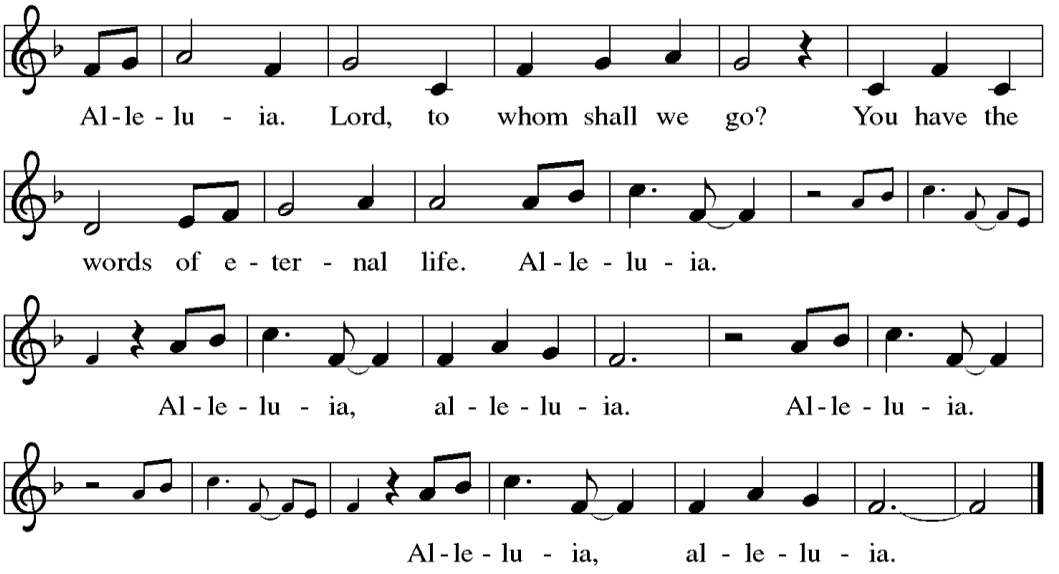
The Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

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: Word of God; Word of Life.
A: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation *ELW Setting 8*



P: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.
A: Glory to you, O Lord.

*The Reading of the Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

[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.”

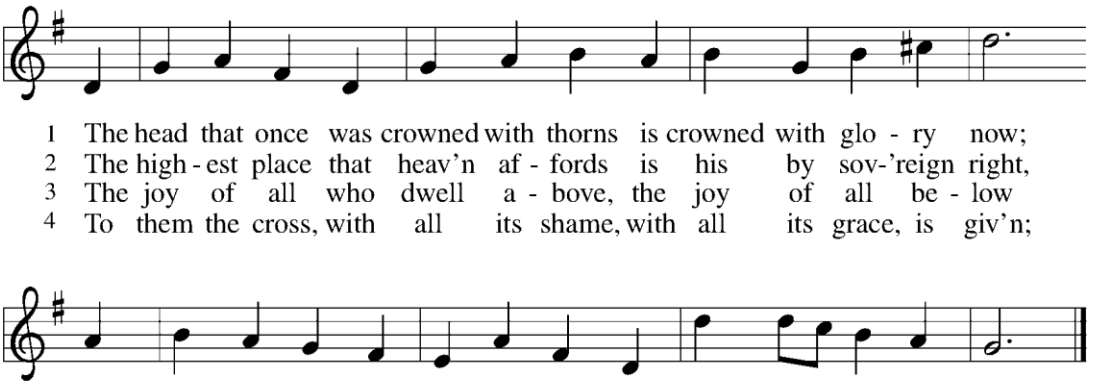
P: The Gospel of our Lord.
A: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We observe a brief silence for reflection

*Hymn Of The Day *ELW 432*

The Head That Once Was Crowned



Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855
Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707

*The Apostle's Creed

We now confess our faith with the whole Church in all times and places, using the words of the Apostle's 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.

The Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear now, O Lord, the prayers of your servants gathered here, both spoken and silent.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day.
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 Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

A: And also with you.

P: Let us offer one another the sign of the Risen Christ's peace.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome all because God welcomes all, and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.

Anthem *The King Shall Come* *Thomas Keesecker*

FELC Choir

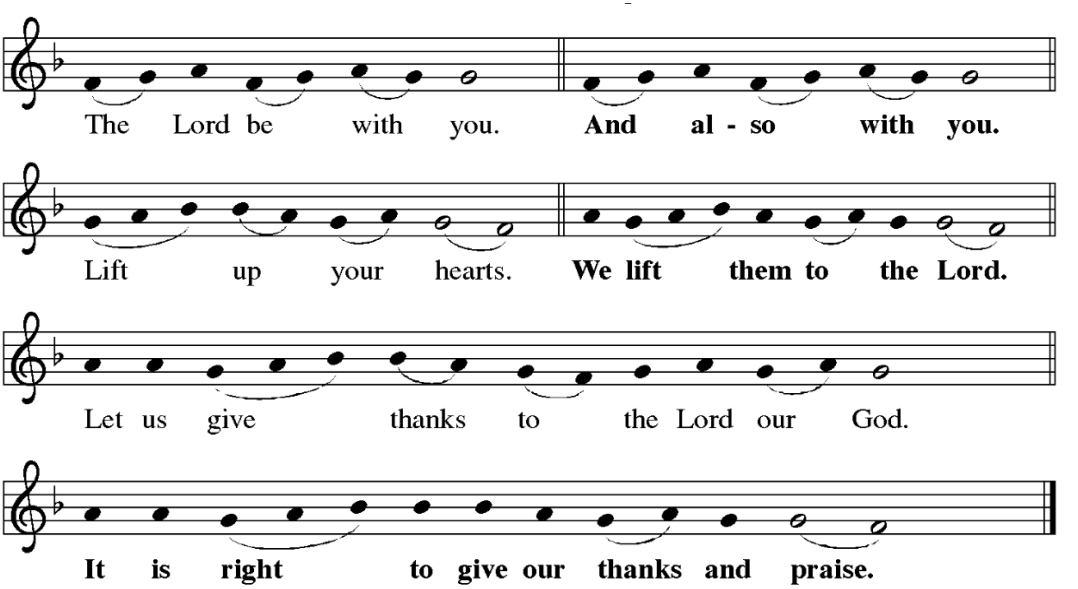
*The Offering Prayer

P: 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.

A: Amen.

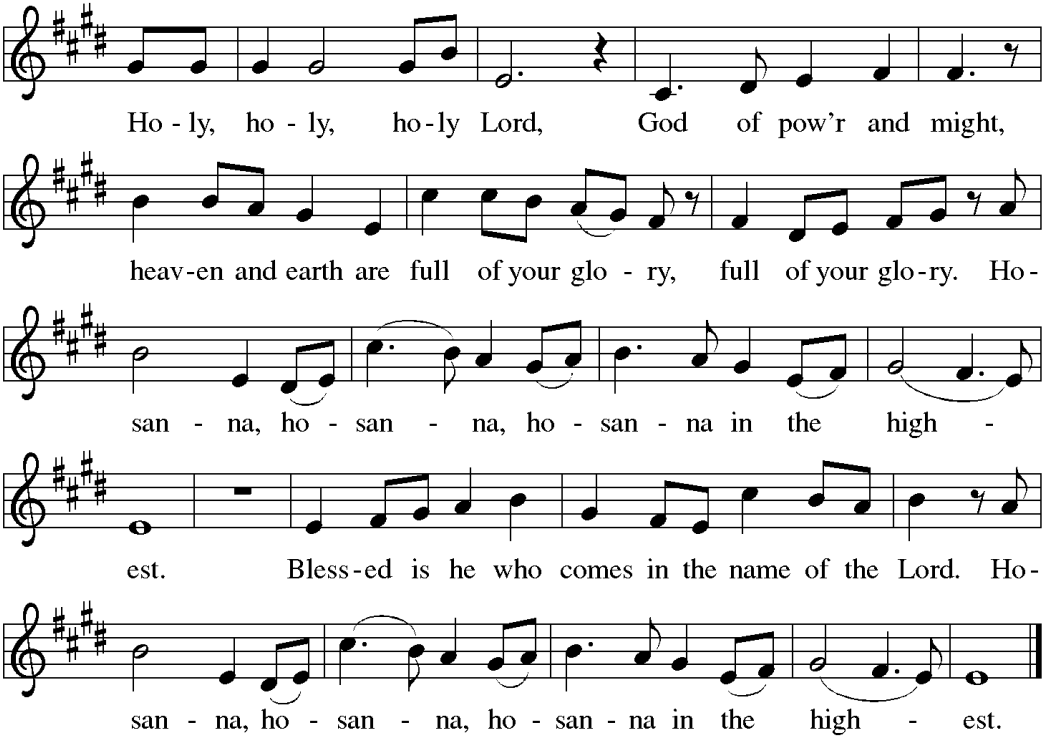
The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.
Please place your offering there, as you leave.

*The Great Thanksgiving



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:

*Holy, Holy, Holy *ELW Setting 8*



*Words of Institution

P: 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

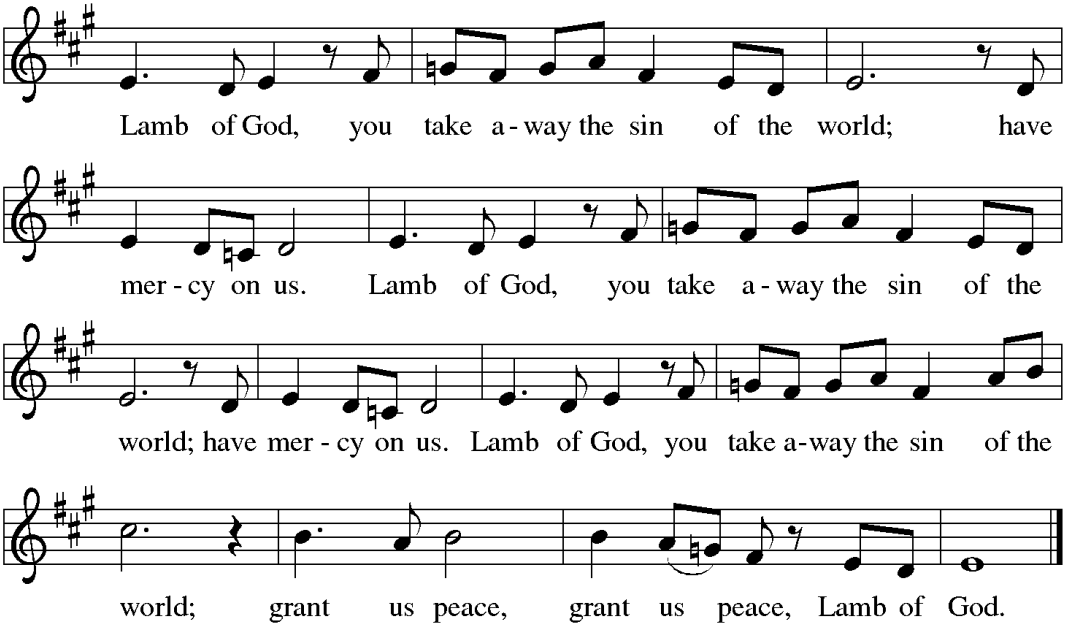
*Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A: 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 Celebration of Holy Communion

*Lamb of God *ELW Setting 8*



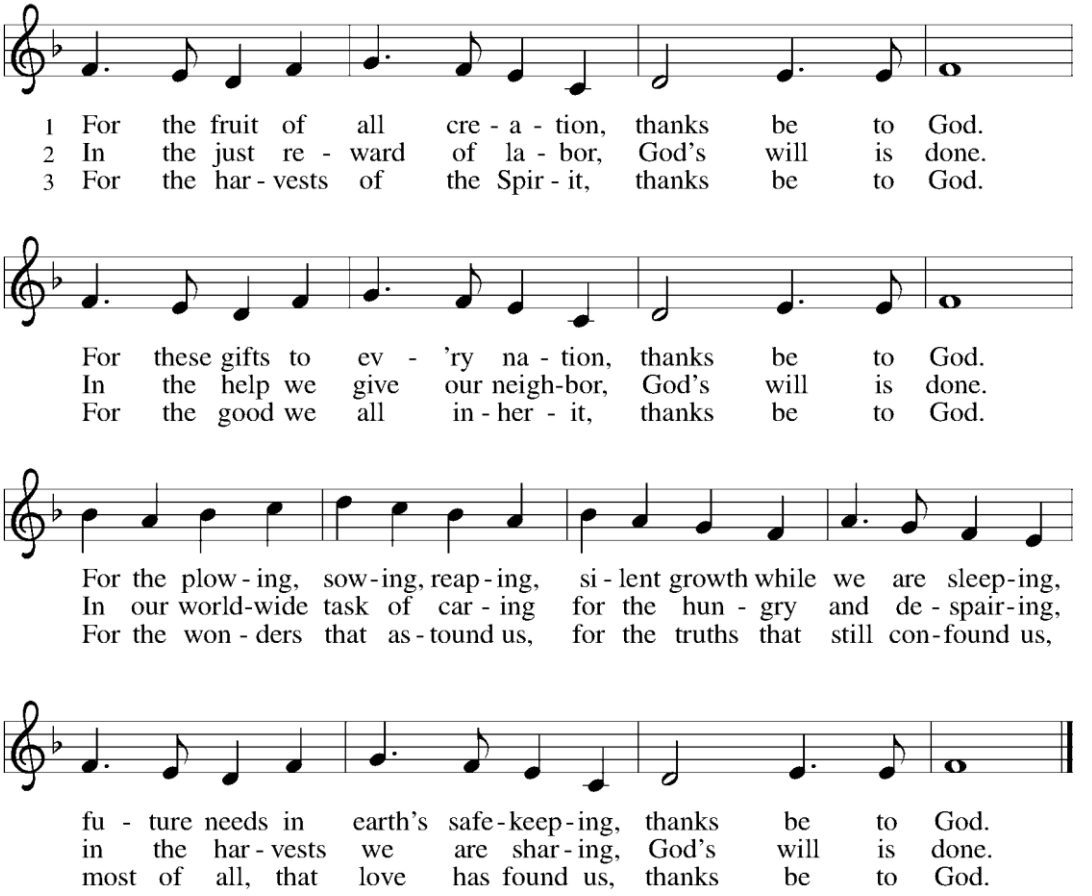
The Invitation to Communion

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please come to the communion rail and kneel (or stand). We will receive communion by intinction. Receive the (all gluten-free) bread, dip it into the wine or white grape juice, then take and eat.

The Communion Music *ELW 679*

For the Fruit of All Creation



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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*The Communion Blessing

P: God of grace and mercy, in this holy meal you have fed us with wisdom, forgiveness, and grace, and we are full. By your Spirit send us out to become what we have received–new life in Christ–for the world.

A: Amen

*The Prayer After Communion

P: 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.

A: Amen.

Please be seated

Community Updates

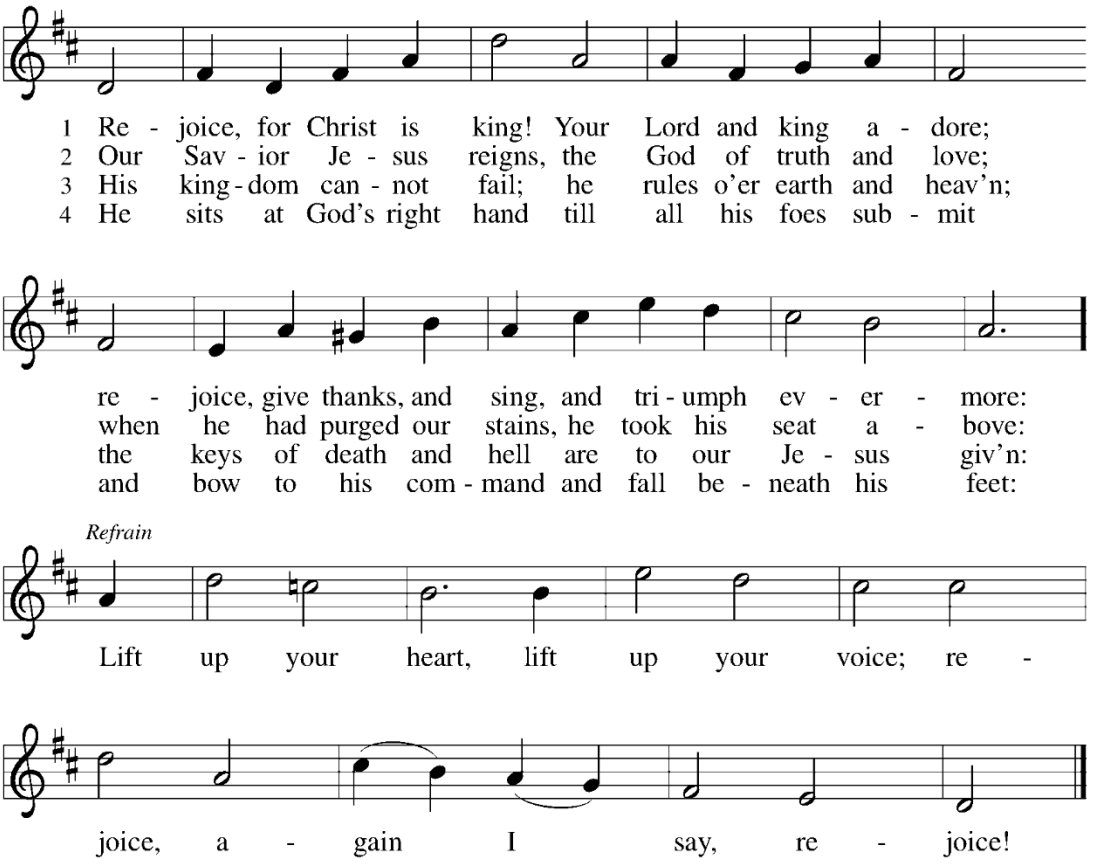
*The Blessing

P: The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.

A: Amen.

*The Sending Song *ELW 430*

Rejoice, for Christ Is King!



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* *Arr: Clayton J. Foor*

Worship Assistants

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Mark Kalin*

Crucifer: *George Otey* Usher(s): *George Otey*

Music Director: *Clayton Foor*

Cantor: Mark Brooks

The Eternal Candle for November is given by Joel & Rona Erickson, to the glory of God, in honor of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary & in Thanksgiving for our First Lutheran family.

The Altar Flowers are given by Susan Sossaman to the glory of God, and in honor of her daughter Heather's birthday.

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