First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Tracy S. Megli

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Reformation Sunday

October 25, 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
October 25, 2026

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

Prelude *Kathie Schiermeister*

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,
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.
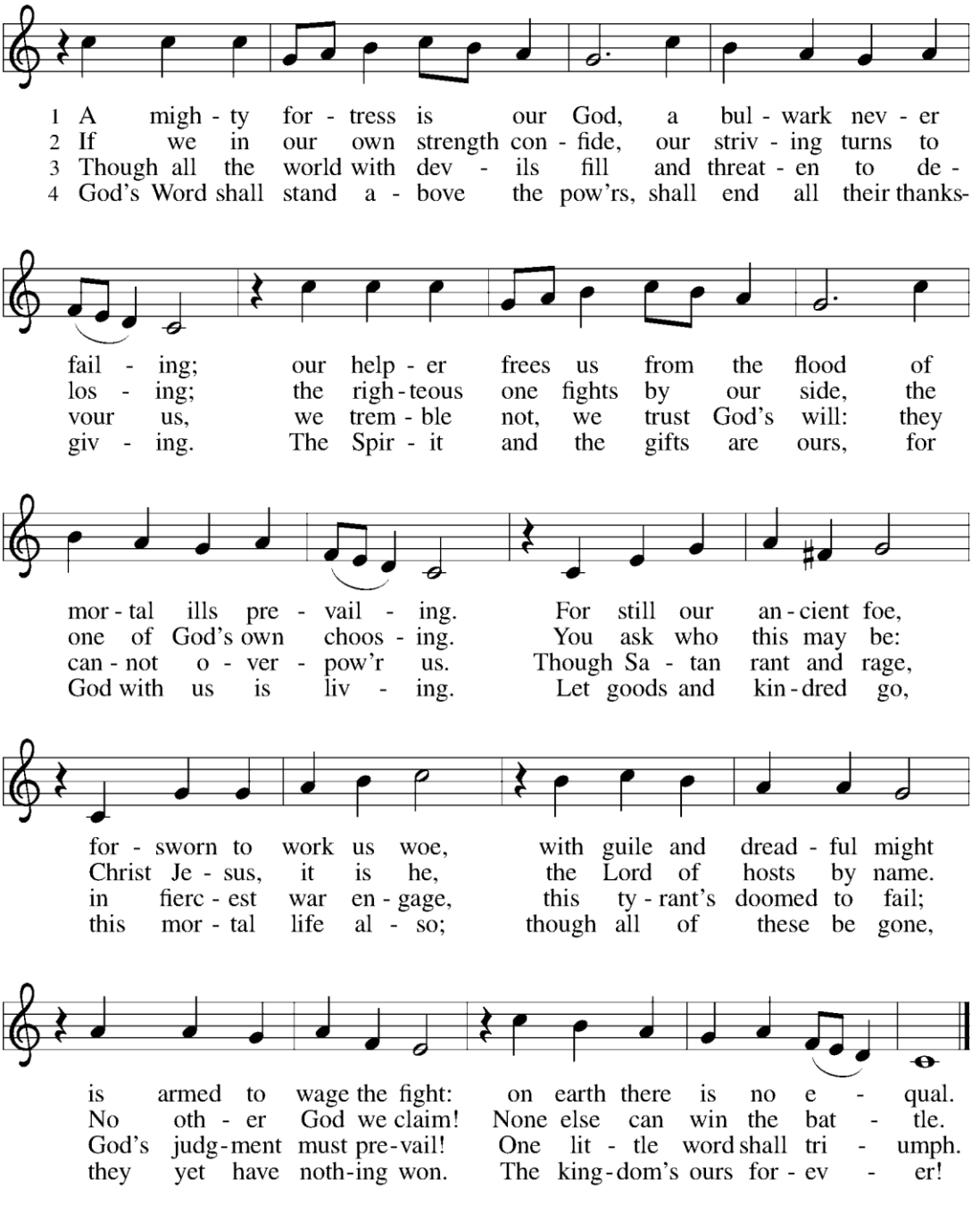
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.

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:
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.

***The Gathering Song** *A Mighty Fortress…* *ELW 505*
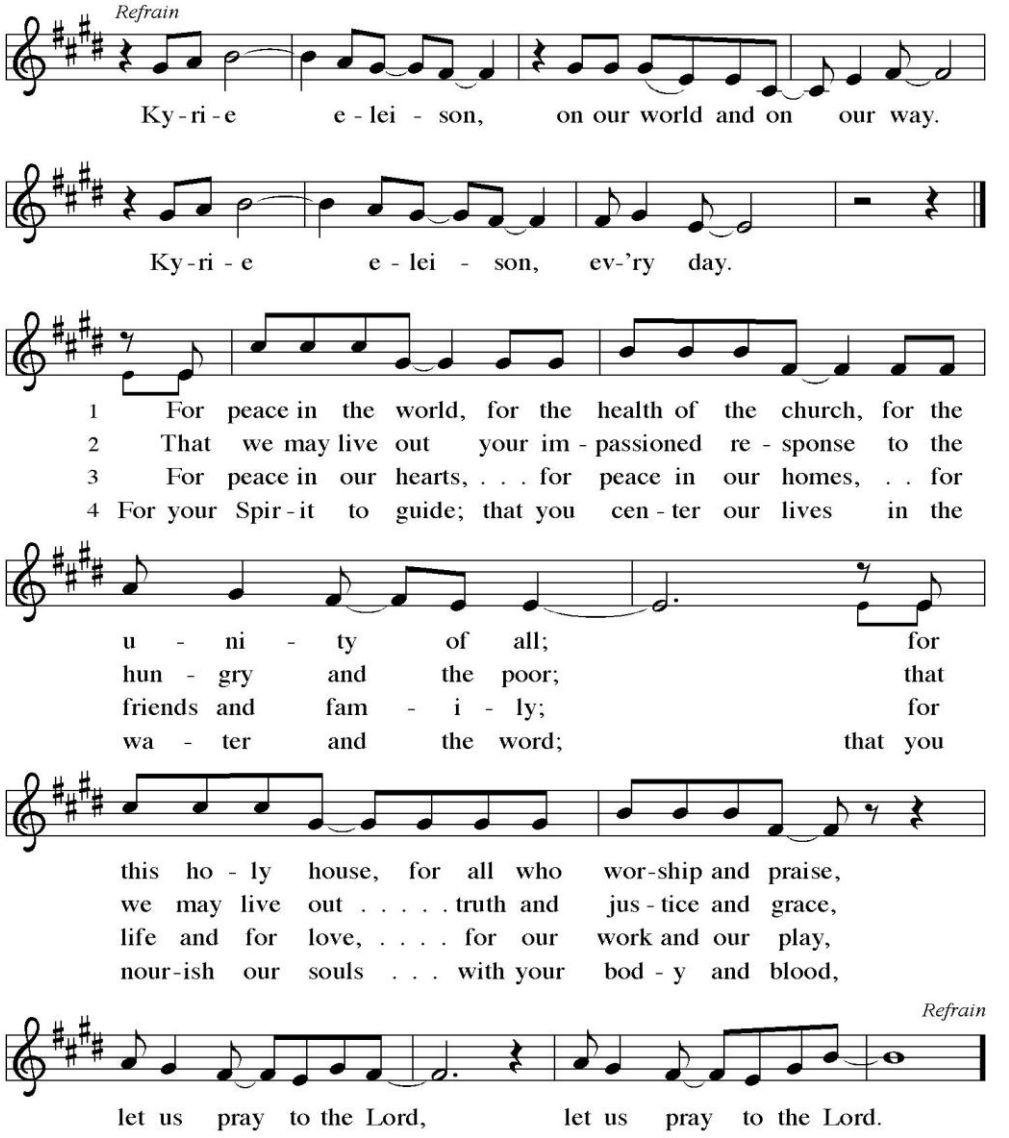


*The Pastoral Greeting

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: 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.

A: Amen.

The 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.

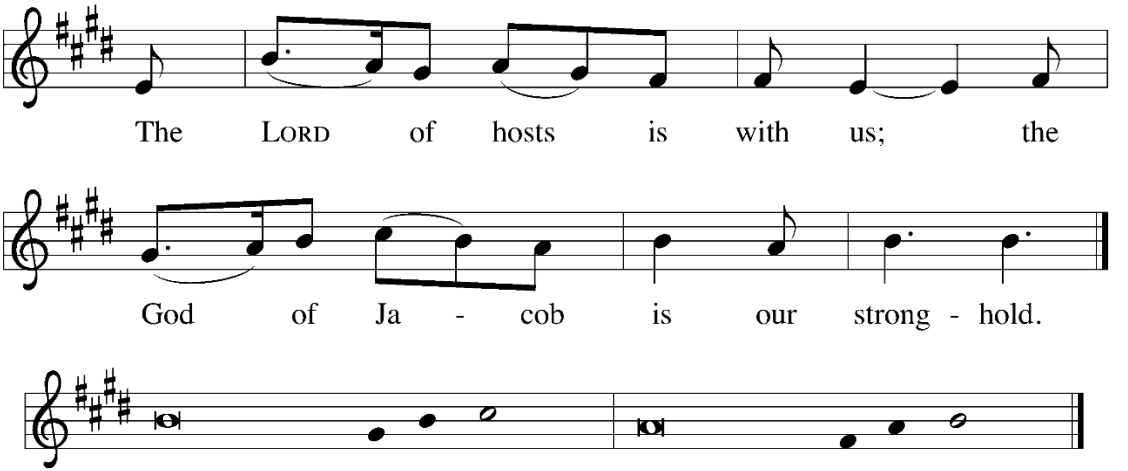
33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I
will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one
another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” 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.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 *(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 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**

The 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.

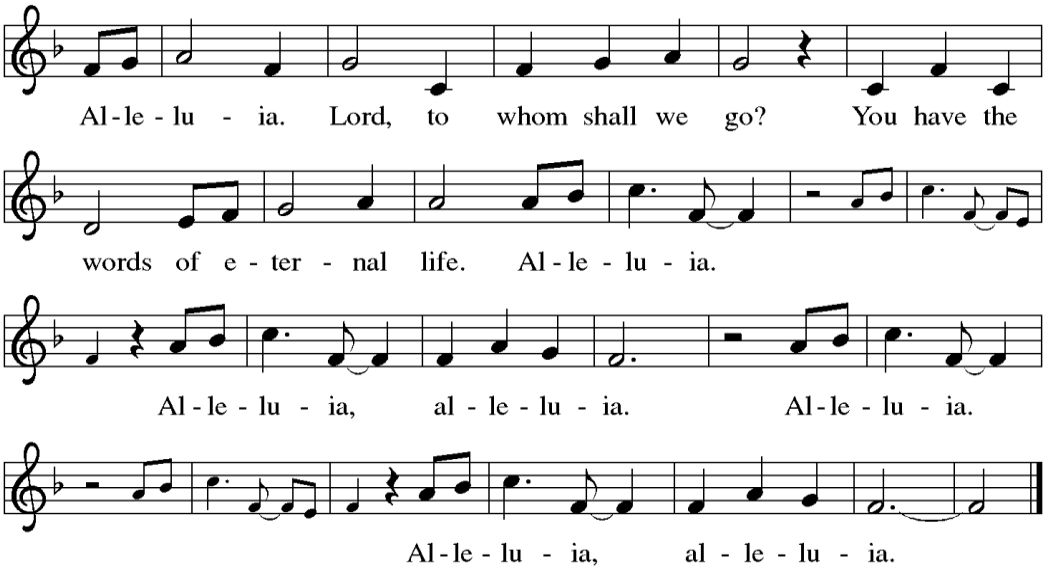
He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he
had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the
present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one
who has the faith of Jesus.

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.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation *ELW Setting 8*



P: The Holy Gospel according to St John.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

*The Reading of the Gospel John 8:31-36

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make
you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never
been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a
slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the
son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free
indeed."
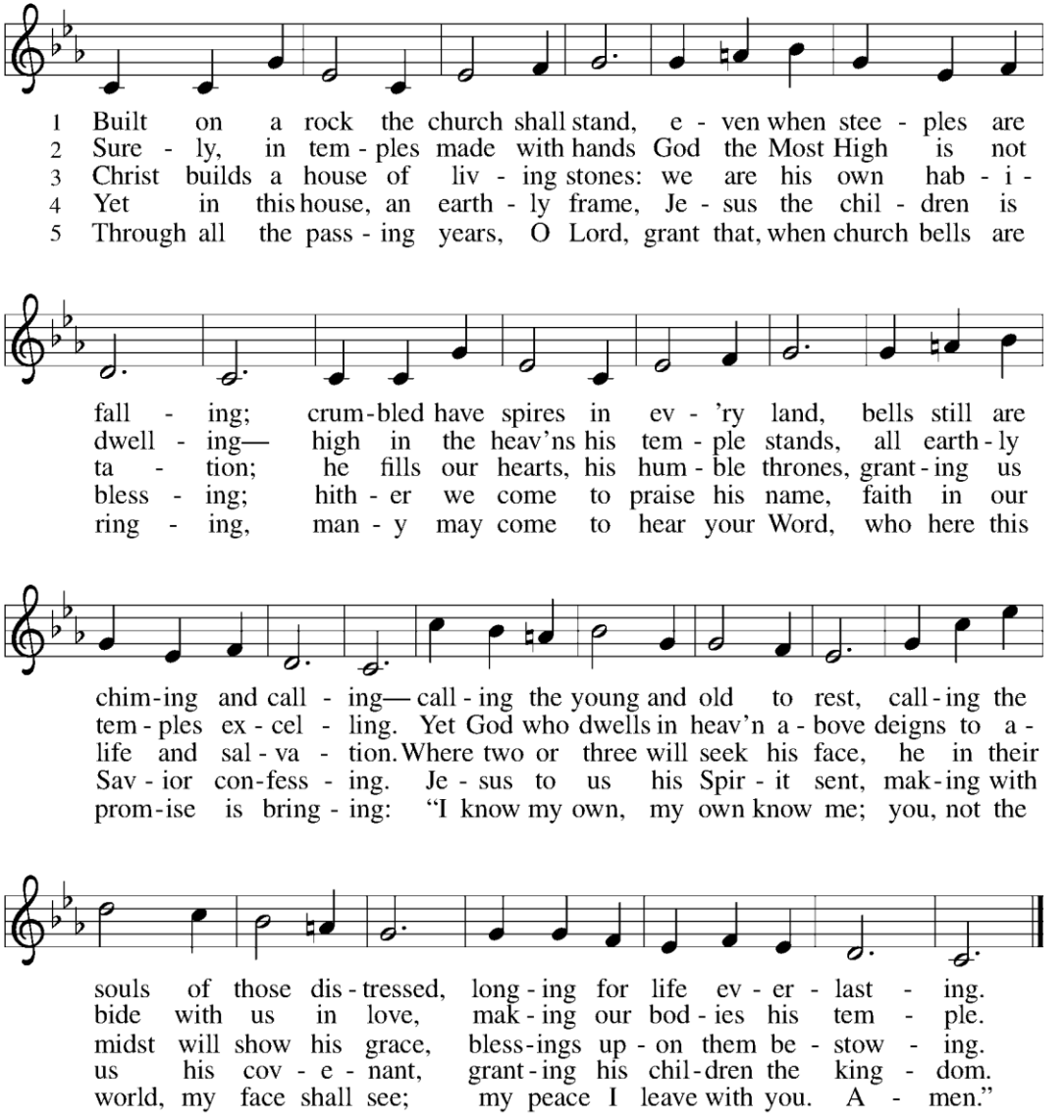
P: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We observe a brief silence for reflection

*Hymn Of The Day *Built on a Rock* *ELW 652*



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, Renee, Rachael, & George, who are one with us in the body of Christ, and who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for *our sisters and brother*,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called *them* to yourself,
enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished *them* in the community of faith.
Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.
Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.
Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support *our sisters and brother* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in *them* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

Let us rejoice with *our sisters and brother* in Christ.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.

The Prayers of the People

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 *Rock by Rock, Stone by Stone* *Michael Hassell*
FELC Choir

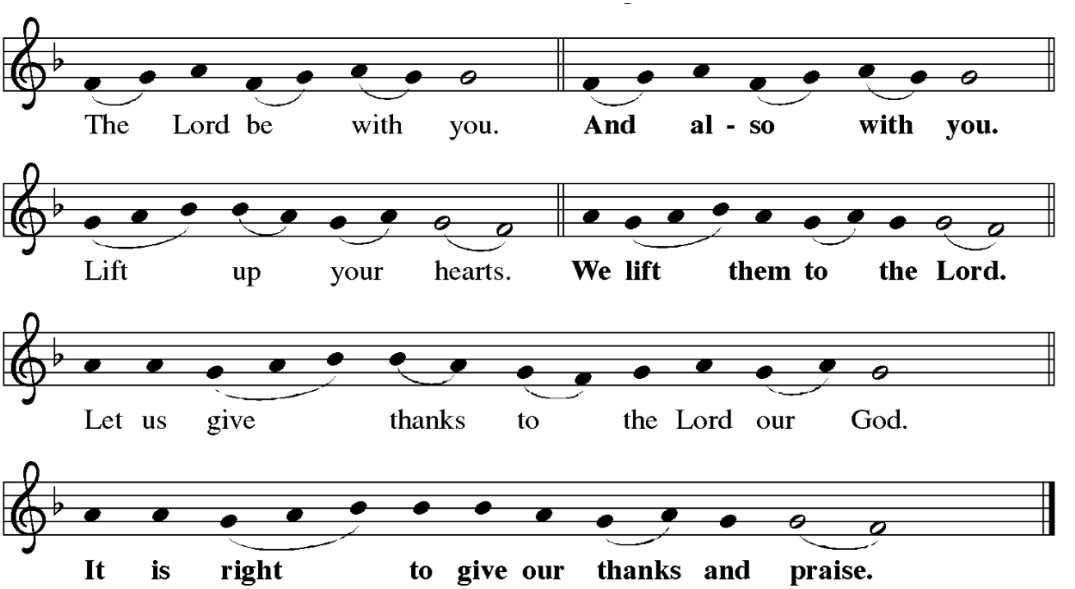
*The Offering Prayer

P: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

A: Amen.

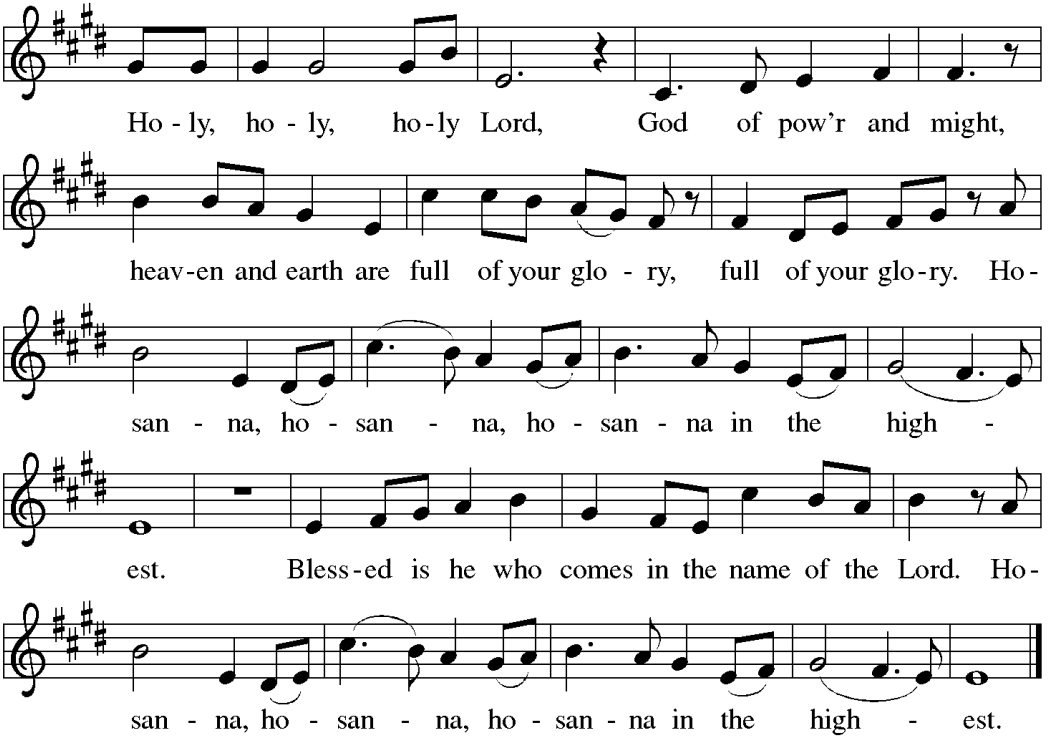
The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.
Please place your offering there, as you leave.

*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

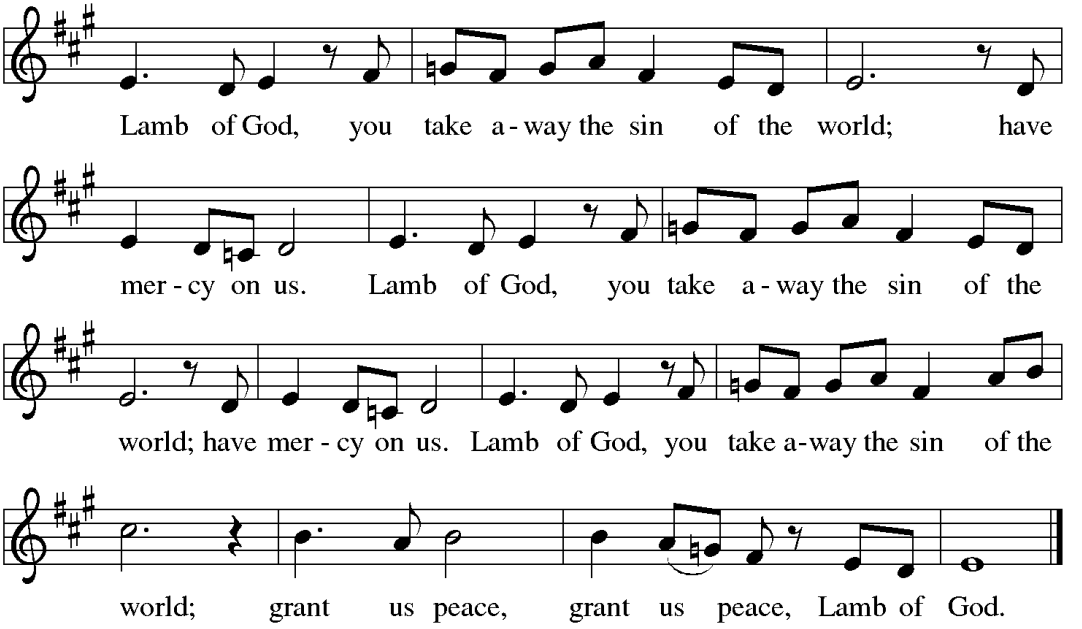
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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
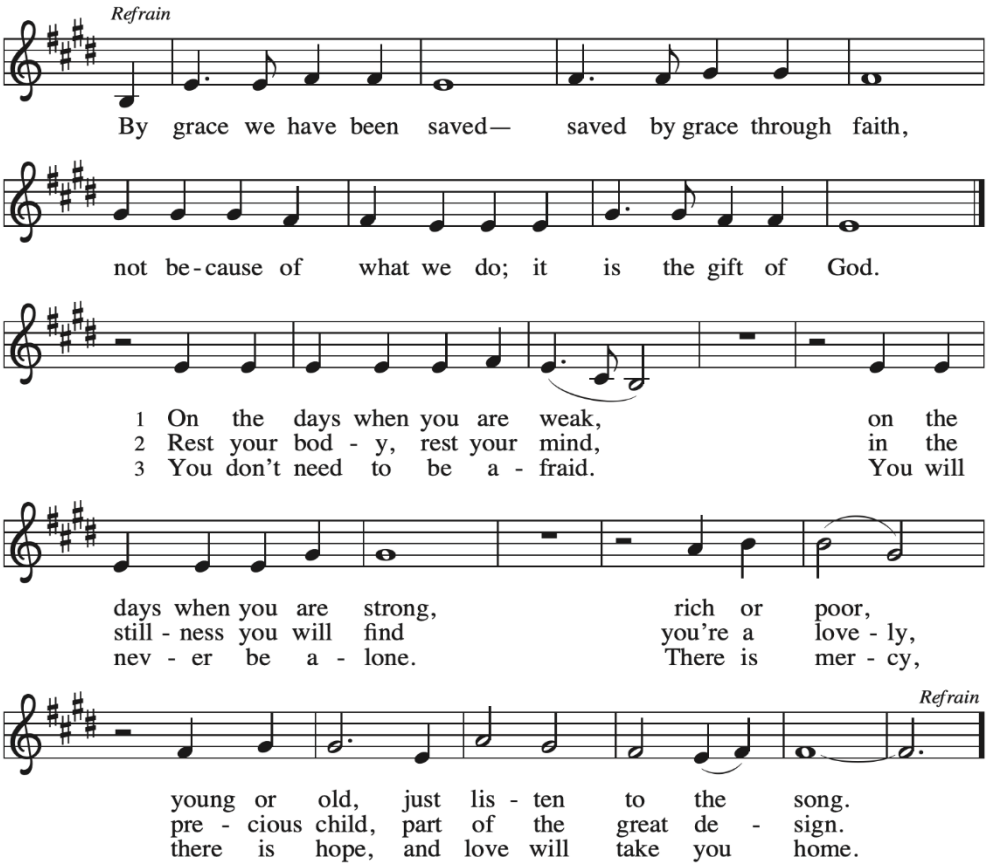


The Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 *ACS 1006*

By Grace We Have Been Saved



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

*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: Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

Please be seated

Community Updates

*The Blessing

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

A: Amen.

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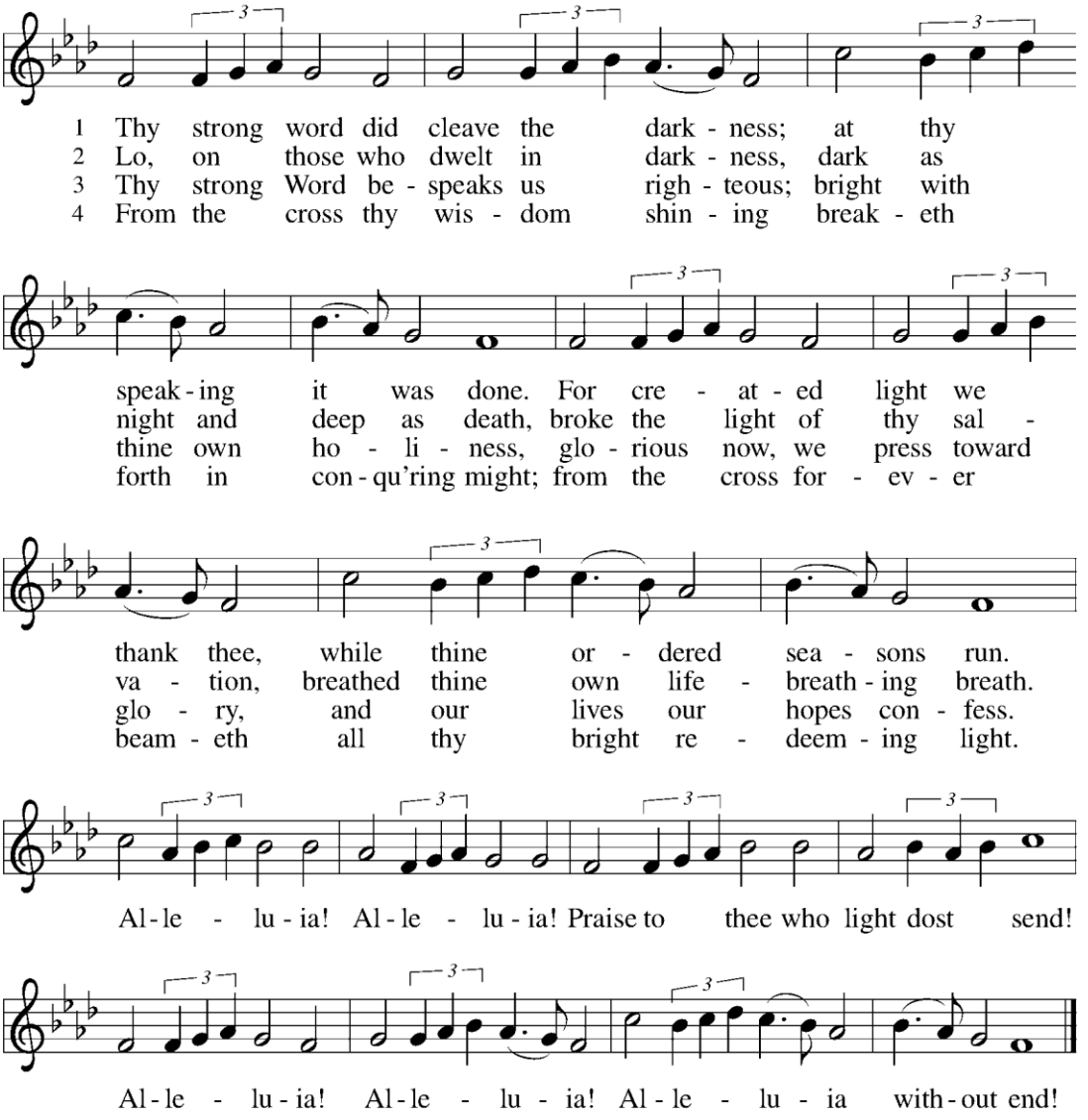
A: Amen.

P: The God of grace
✢ bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

*The Sending Song *ELW 511*

Thy Strong Word



Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

*Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Faith of Our Fathers* *Arr: Clayton J. Foor*

Worship Assistants

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Rona Erickson*
Crucifer: *George Otey* Usher(s): *George Otey*

Music Director: *Clayton Foor*
Cantor: Rona Erickson

The Eternal Candle for October is given by Sara Brightwell, to the glory of God, and in loving memory of her grandparents Harold & Julie Diekmann.

The Altar Flowers are given by Christine & David Scheck to the glory of God, and in honor of Donna Scheck's 93rd birthday.

ELW 505

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890, alt.
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 652

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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