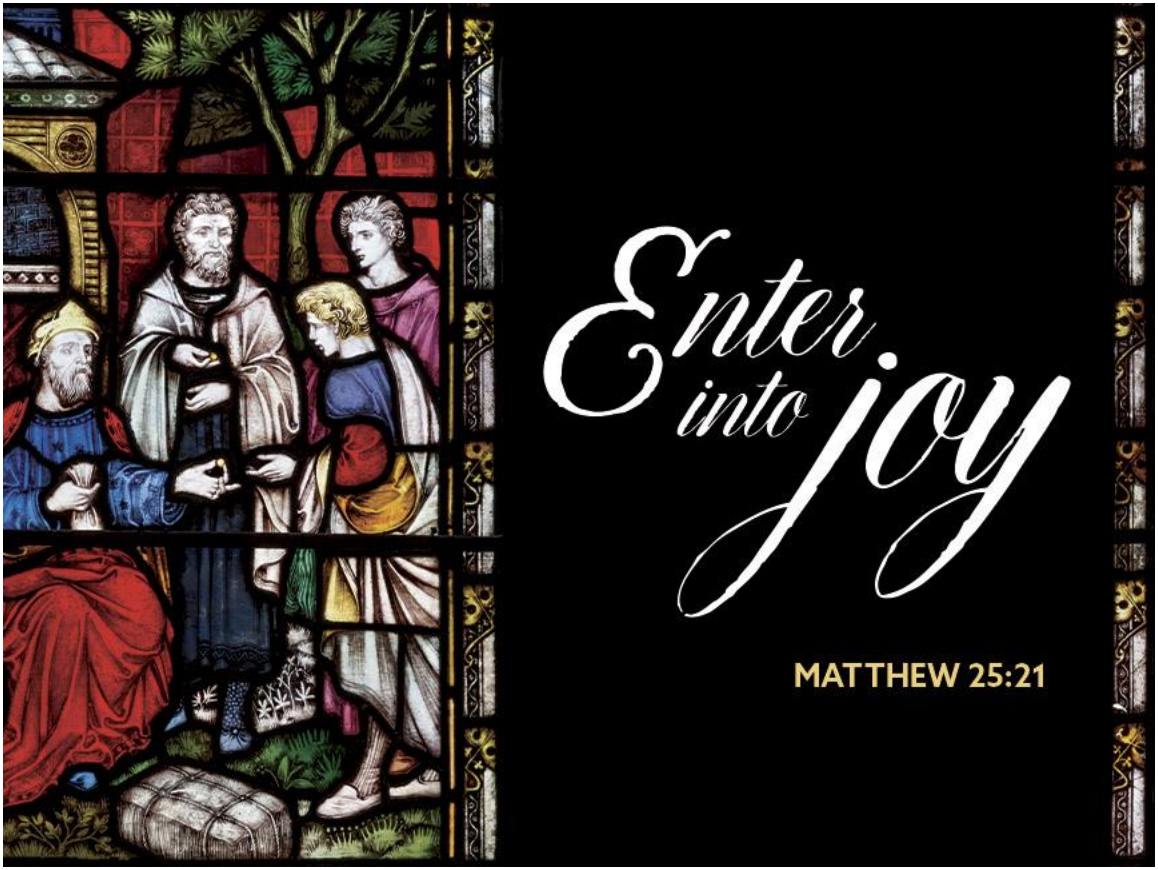



# Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church**

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • office@glccu.org

www.glccu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp

# Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

## Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader
**Bold type: spoken by the people**
*Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader*
***Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people***
*Small Italics: liturgical directions and information*
☩ the sign of the cross may be made
ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)
ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)
♪ Favorite Hymn request

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

## As We Gather:

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

# Gathering

## Prelude

*Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 657* J.S. Bach

## Welcome

*The assembly stands.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen.**

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.
**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or is seated.*
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.
**Amen.**

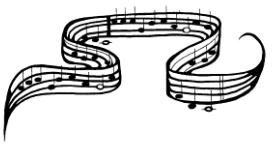
*The assembly stands.*

## Gathering Hymn *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* ELW 678



## 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.**



## Canticle of Praise



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Word

## Children's Sermon — Pastor Chris Repp

## Temple Talk — Gloria Keeley

## First Reading — Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

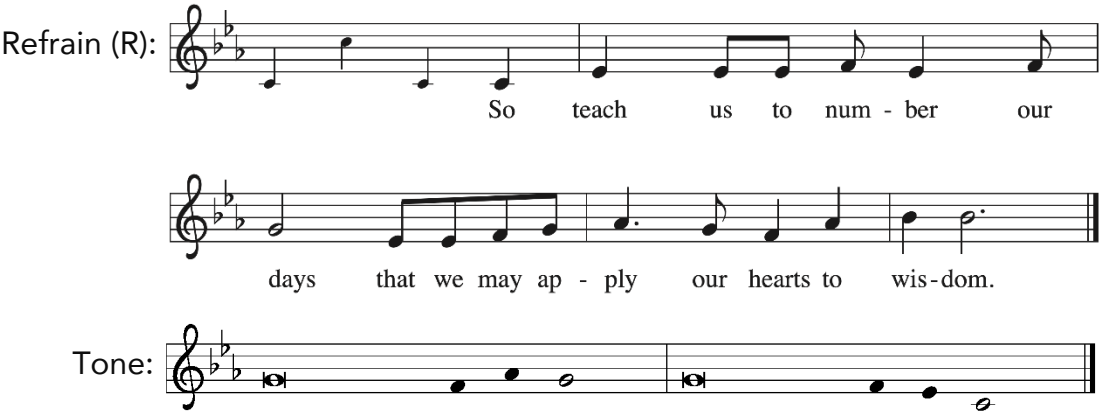
*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor
will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not
drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of
the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day
of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day
of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified
cities and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because
they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their
flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day
of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a
full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

Psalm 90:1-12




[1] *Lord, you have | been our refuge*
*from one generation | to another.*
[2] ***Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,***
***from age to age | you are God.***
[3] *You turn us back to the | dust and say,*
*"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."*
[4] ***For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past***
***and like a watch | in the night; R***
[5] *you sweep them away | like a dream,*
*they fade away suddenly | like the grass:*
[6] ***in the morning it is | green and flourishes;***
***in the evening it is dried | up and withered.***
[7] *For we are consumed | by your anger;*
*we are afraid because | of your wrath.*
[8] ***Our iniquities you have | set before you,***
***and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R***
[9] *When you are angry, all our | days are gone;*
*we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.*
[10] ***The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;***
***yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,***
***for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.***
[11] *Who regards the power | of your wrath?*
*Who rightly fears your | indignation?*
[12] ***So teach us to num- | ber our days***
***that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R***

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

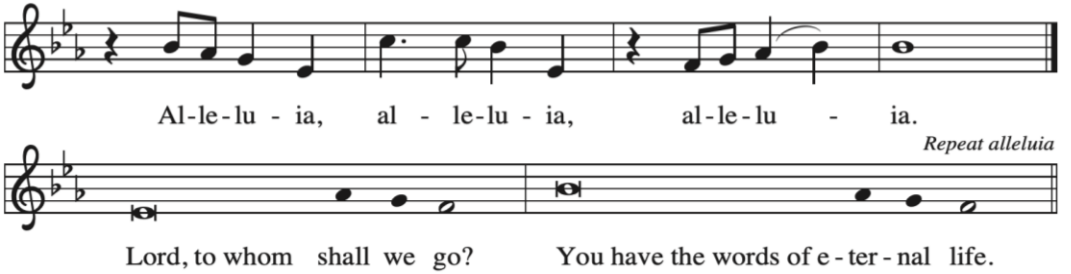
*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then
sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman,
and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let
us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk
get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
[10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
[11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.
**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Gospel Acclimation



## Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who
had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one
who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts
with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five
more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five
more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in
a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'
24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you
did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you
have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew,
did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have
received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the
one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will
have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

*The assembly stands.*

## Hymn of the Day

*O Christ The Same*

ELW 760






## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

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

*The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:*

God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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

*The assembly stands.*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*After the Peace, the assembly is seated.*



# Meal

## Offering

*Please place your offering in the donation box on the table in the main aisle as you leave. You may also give online at* http://glccu.org/donate *or scan the QR code with your photos app to connect to the donation page on the GLC website.*

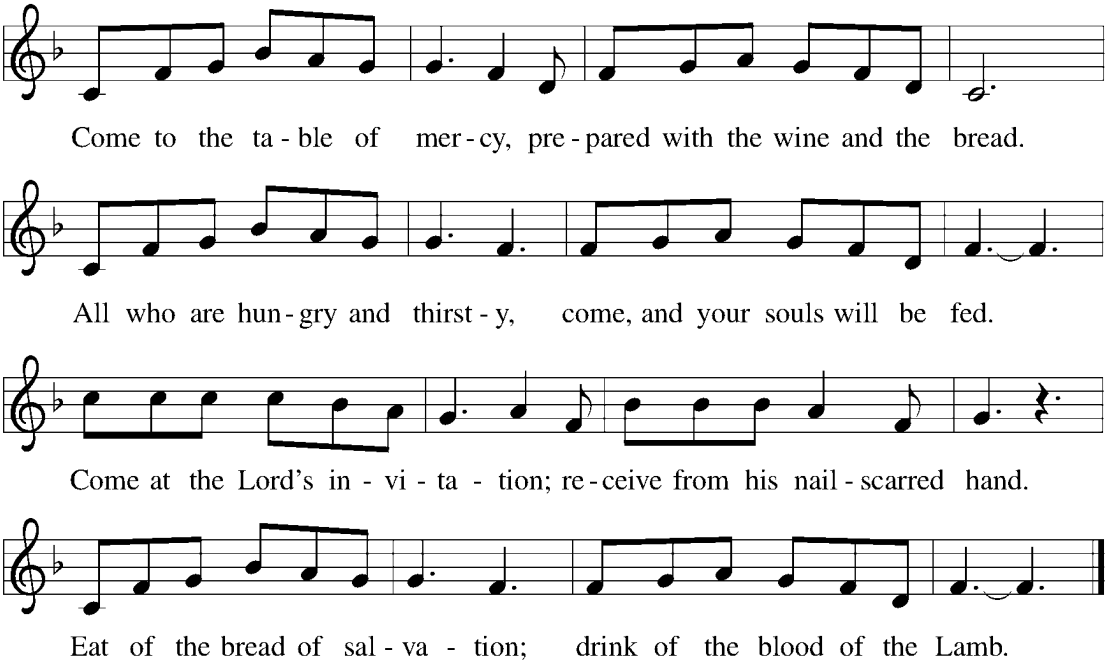
## Offertory

*Light Everlasting* — Olaf Christiansen

*O Light Everlasting, O Love never failing.*
*Illumine our darkness and draw us to thee.*
*May we from thy spirit receive inspiration*
*As children together thy wisdom may see.*
*Make known to all nation thy peace and salvation,*
*And help us O Father, thy temple to be.*

*The assembly stands.*

## Offering Verse

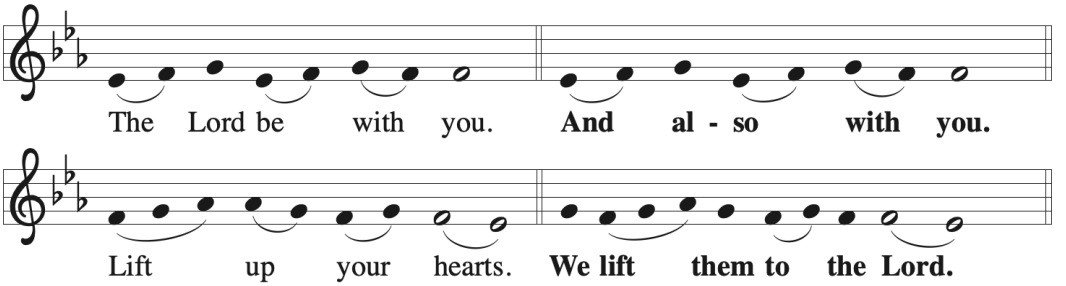


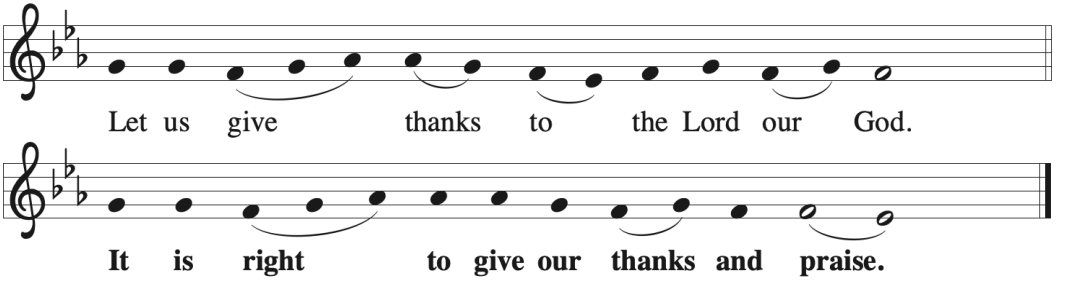

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**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.**

## Great Thanksgiving






*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:*



## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
**We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died.**
**Christ is risen.**
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

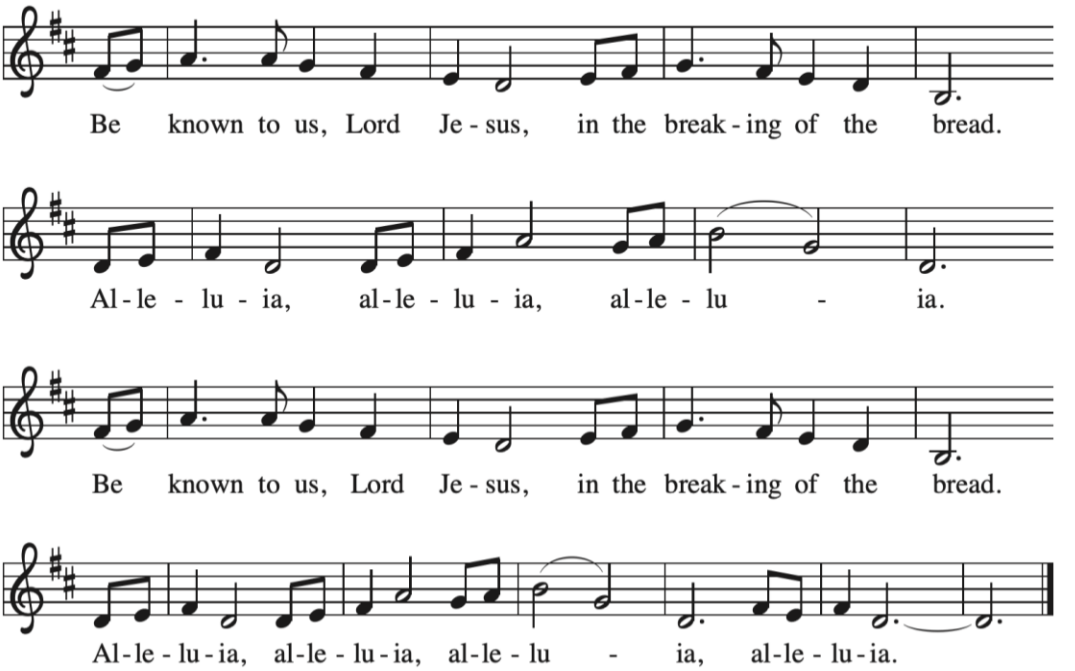


## Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.*

*To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.*

## Be Known to Us








## Communion Hymns

*For the Fruit of All Creation* ELW 679






*The assembly stands.*

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

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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. Send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
**Amen.**

# Sending

## (Sending Of Communion)

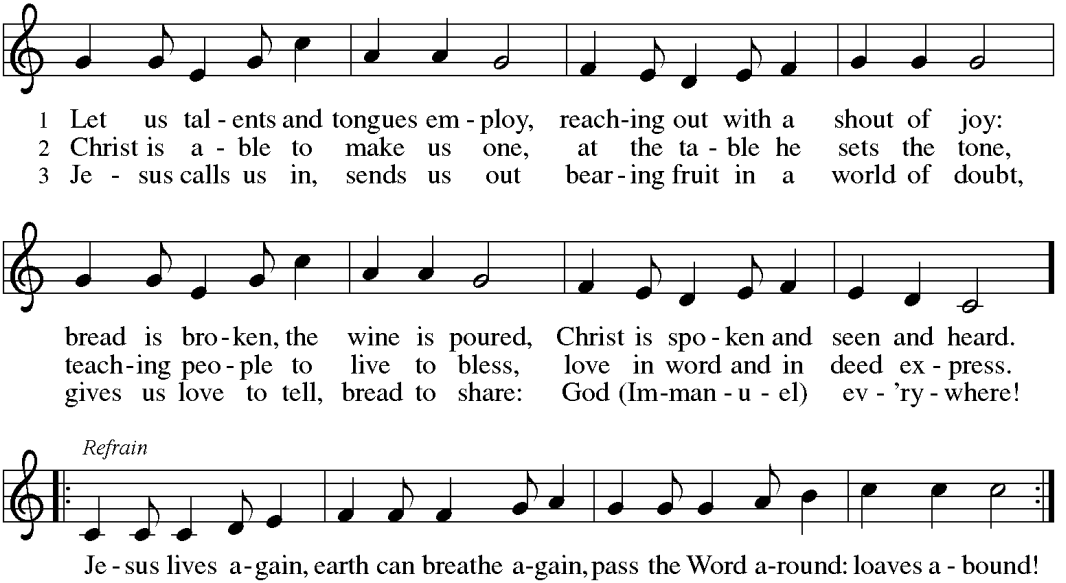
*A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.*

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ELW 674




## Announcements

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Ricercare nel duodecimo tono* Andrea Gabrieli (1533-1585)

## Worship Support

*The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Presiding Minister: | **Pastor Chris Repp** | Livestream: | **Meg Loven** |
| Assisting Minister: | **Helen Repp** | Sound Technician: | **Kevin Vail** |
| Reader: | **Silvia Grigorescu** | Organist: | **Mike Keeley** |
| Deacon: | **Susan Monte** | Music Director: | **Kyle Schrage** |
| Greeters: | **Mary Jo Erickson and Russ Dankert** | Office Assistant: | **Karen Maher** |
| Ushers: | **Jim Fleming and Andy Grichnik** | Coffee Hour: | **The Repps** |

Chancel flowers are given by **Leanne & Ray Wichus**
*To the Glory of God*

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