# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**November 15, 2026**

*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 of Nazareth 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 the Christ's coming among us.*

Handbell Prelude

| | |
|---|---|
| *Echoes* | Bill Ingram |
| *A Festival Chime* | Gustav Holst, arr. Barrow |
| *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | arr. Raymond Herbek |
| *Joyful Rhythm* | Kevin McChesney |

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God – Father, ✣ Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers in this community.

*silence for reflection*

P: Holy and gracious God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have lived only for the present, without regard for generations to come. We have sought the realms of this world, rather than your promised reign of justice and peace. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

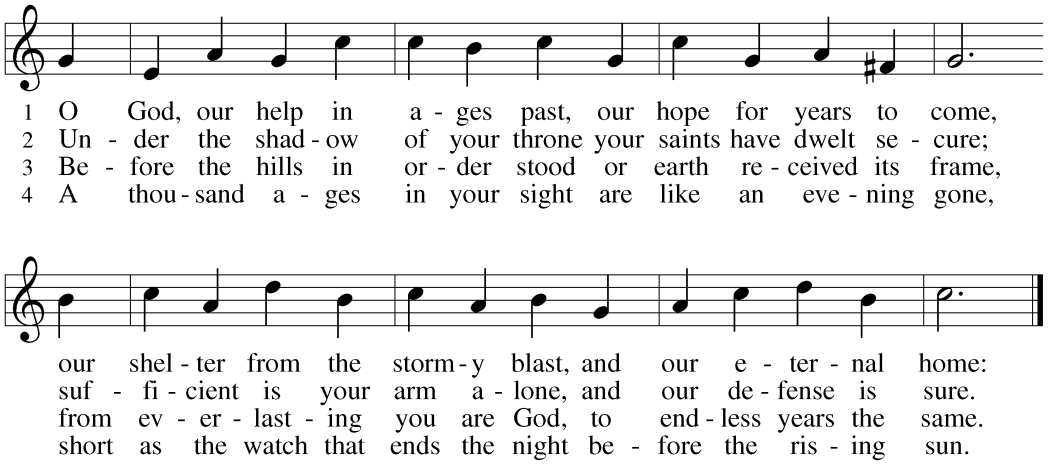
P: How blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. In the mercy of almighty God, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the ✣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

### O God, Our Help in Ages Past




5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Apostolic Greeting

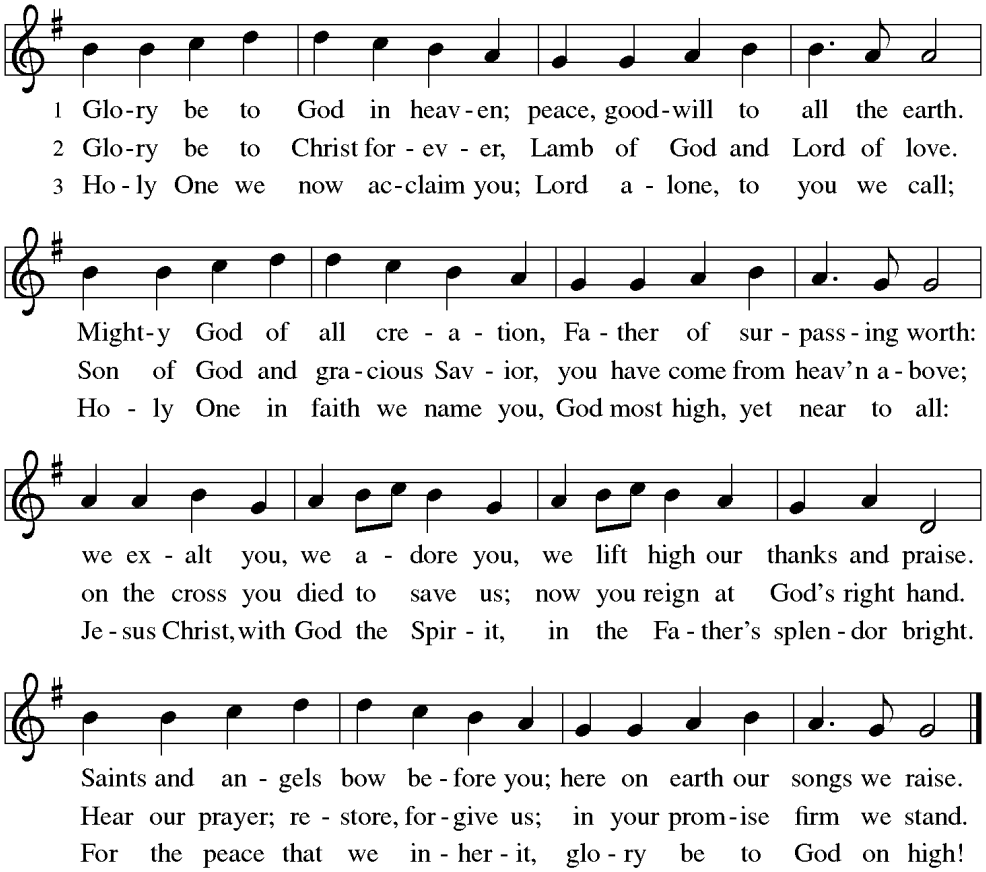
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie




Hymn of Praise




Salutation and Prayer of the Day

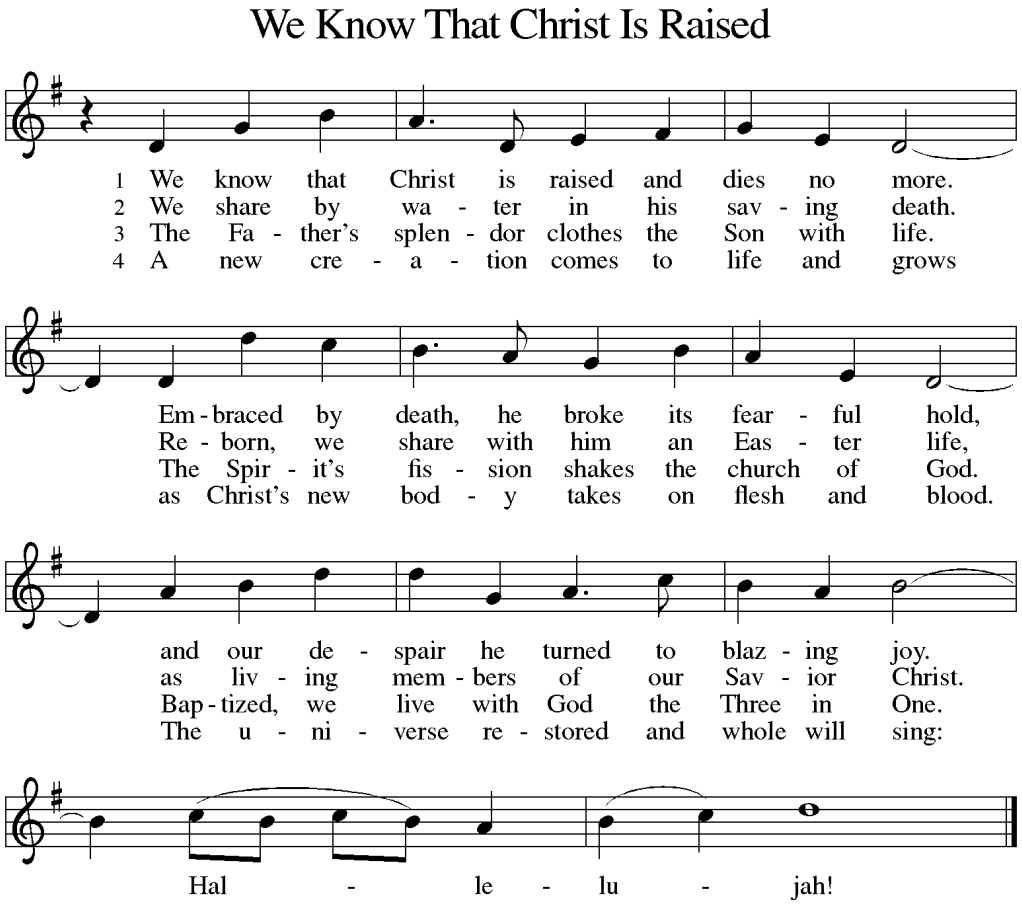



P: Let us pray.

**C: 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 Lord. Amen**

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sacrament of Holy Baptism




P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Who presents *Luciano Armani* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism?

R: We do.

P: In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: We do.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil and their empty promises?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**
**and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**was crucified, died, and was buried.**
**He descended into hell.**
**On the third day he rose again.**
**He ascended into heaven,**
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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**



P: *Luciano Armani*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*(A prayer for the Holy Spirit is said.)*

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Luciano Armani:* 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.

**C: Amen**

*(The sign of the cross is made on the forehead.)*

P: *Luciano Armani,* child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*(A baptismal candle is presented.)*

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*(A prayer is said for the family of the child.)*

P: Let us pray.
O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the family of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so that they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*(The newly baptized is welcomed into the fellowship of the congregation.)*

P: Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

## First Lesson - 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 Christian Testament include details taken from accounts of the day of the Lord in the Hebrew scriptures.*

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 rest complacently on their dregs, 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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 90:1-12

(sung in unison)

*The psalmist reflects on the passing character of human life in the face of the Lord's wrath and asks the everlasting God for wisdom to make use of the time.*

**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,***
**"Go back, O | child of earth."**
**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past***
**and like a watch | in the night.**
**5 You sweep us away | like a dream;***
**we 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 consume away in | your displeasure;***
**we are afraid because of your wrathful | indignation.**
**8 Our iniquities you have | set before you,***
**and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**
**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.**

## Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of the 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.*

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, beloved, 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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia Verse




## Holy Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30

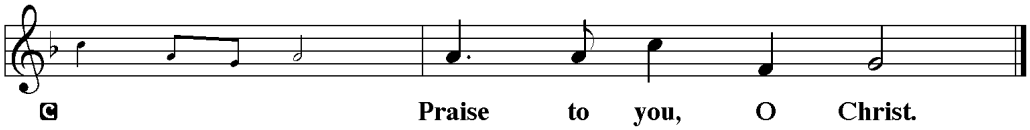
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.




*Jesus of Nazareth tells a parable 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.*

Jesus said to his 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. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once 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 seed; [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.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

## Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us




Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the Church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Help us sustain the life of the planet and protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our congregation. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest, and for the witness of those who have died in faith, we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen**

# LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

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

Offering

Offertory Anthem *The Wisdom of God* Roland Martin (b. 1955)

*The Creator, the Wisdom of God draws near,*
*The mist of the prophet's promise is dispersed.*
*Joy clears the skies, truth is resplendent,*
*The dark shadows are dispelled,*
*The gates of Eden are opened,*
*Adam dances in exultation:*
*Our Creator and God wills to fashion us anew. Amen*.

(from the Orthodox liturgy)

Offertory

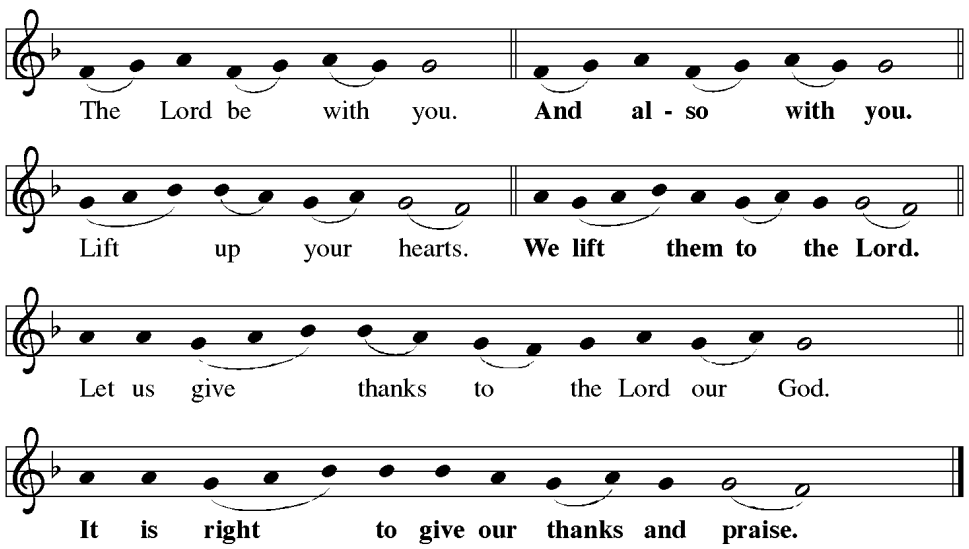



Offertory Prayer and Consecration of Pledges

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure, so that the light of your love may shine through each of us. We pray that you receive these gifts for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

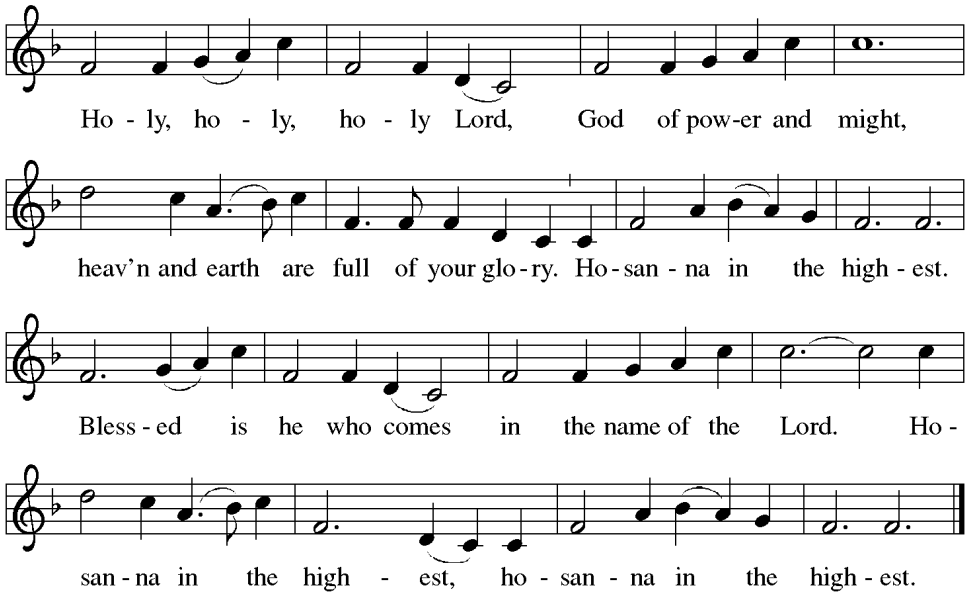
Great Thanksgiving



Proper Preface

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus




Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

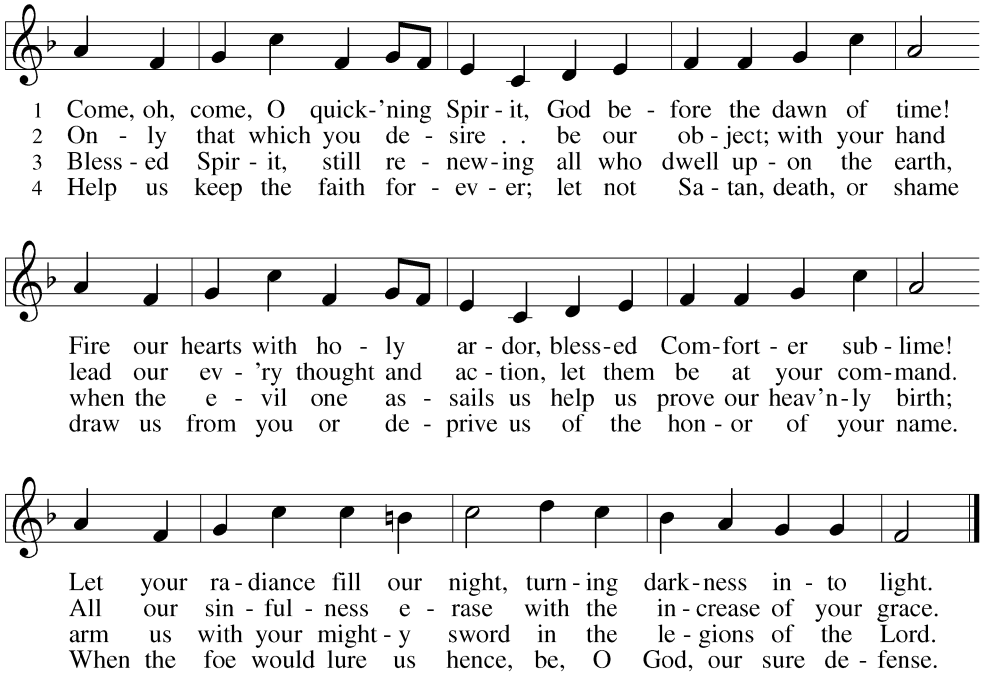
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from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

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



# Come, Oh, Come, O Quickening Spirit




Text: Heinrich Held, d. c. 1659; tr. Edward T. Horn III, b. 1909, alt.
Music: KOMM, O KOMM, DU GEIST DES LEBENS, *Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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# How Firm a Foundation




Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns,* 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, early American

Post-Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen**

Post-Communion Hymn *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,*
*the people of God from his dwelling take leave.*
*The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended*
*the fruits of this service in all who believe.*
*The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,*
*shall blossom in action for God and for all.*
*His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us*
*to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.*

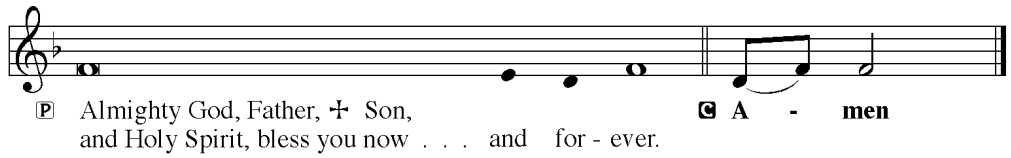
Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus the Christ, our servant Lord.

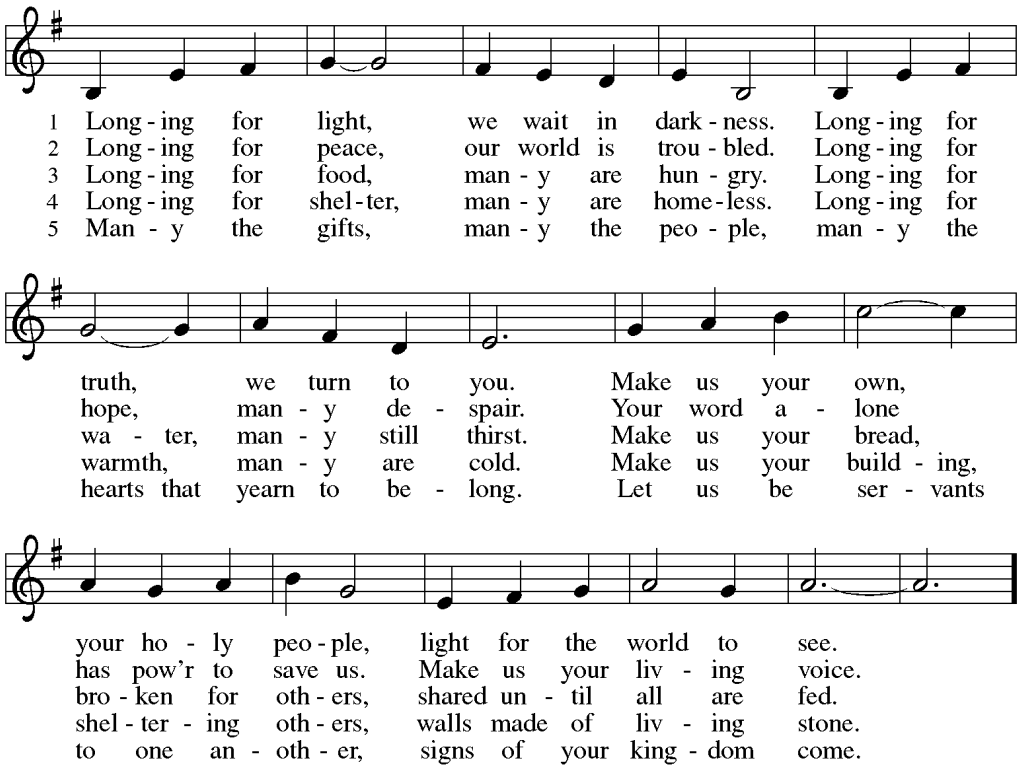
**C: Amen**

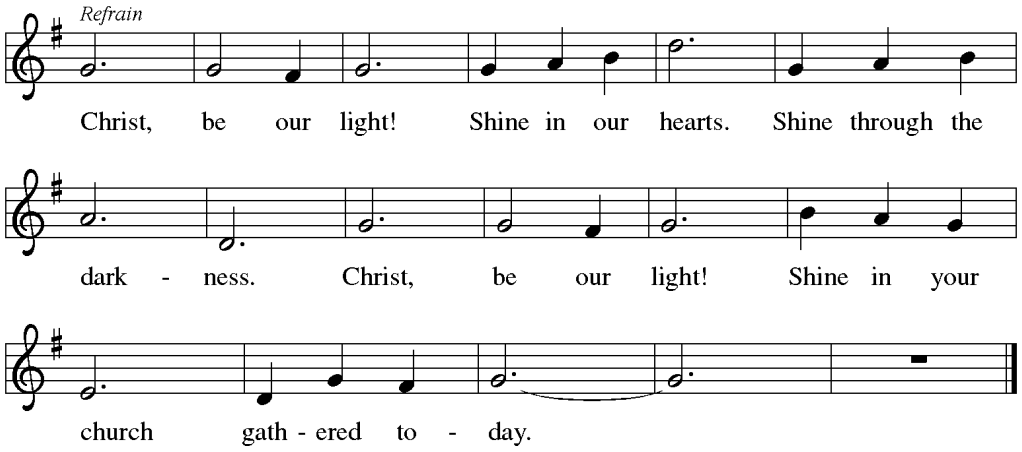
Benediction




Hymn

## Christ, Be Our Light






Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Caprice for the Reed Stops* Louis-Nicholas Clérambault

✢ ✢ ✢

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Carrie Wisman
in memory of Paul Wisman.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Karen and Eric Kenny
in honor of their grandchildren.

We welcome **Luciano Armani Quarantotto** into our fellowship today through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Luciano is the son of Grace and Lucas Quarantotto.

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunday,** | 8:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion |
| **November 15** | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Church School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
| | 11:45 a.m. | Senior Youth Group (grades nine to twelve) |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Finance Committee |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Junior Youth Group (grades three to eight) |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Thomas Mass |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Third Sunday Program |
| **Monday,** | 9:00 a.m. | Strength and Balance Exercise Class |
| **November 16** | 9:30 a.m. | Chair Yoga Class |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Connecting with God - *Know God - Know Self* (via Zoom) |
| **Tuesday,** | 1:00 p.m. | Bible Study - *Together by Grace: Psalms* |
| **November 17** | 5:40 p.m. | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council |
| **Wednesday,** | 12:10 p.m. | Service of Holy Communion |
| **November 18** | 5:30 p.m. | Wednesday Children's Ministry (age three - grade five) |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| **Thursday,** | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) |
| **November 19** | 11:00 a.m. | Sermon Discussion Group |
| **Friday,** | 7:00 a.m. | Friday Breakfast Series - *Genesis* |
| **November 20** | 8:00 a.m. | Matins (Morning Prayer) |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Strength and Balance Exercise Class |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Chair Yoga Class |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Book Discussion Group - *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth leave for *Lost & Found* Synod Event (grades seven & eight) |
| **Saturday,** | 10:00 a.m. | Harvest Food Festival & Sally von Oesen Pottery Sale |
| **November 21** | | |
| **Sunday,** | 8:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion |
| **November 22** | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Church School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Brunch Bunch (Bentley's on Bedford) |
| | 6:00 p.m. | God in Film - *The Greatest Showman* |

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***Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."***

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**
**1000 Langhorne Road**
**Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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*President:* Deb Serio
*Pastor:* Dennis S. Roberts
*Organist-Choirmaster:* J. William Greene
*Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:* Susan H. Williams
*Parish Administrator:* Ellie Quillen
*Parish Nurse:* Gail Midkiff
*Sextons:* Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

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