CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 22, 2026
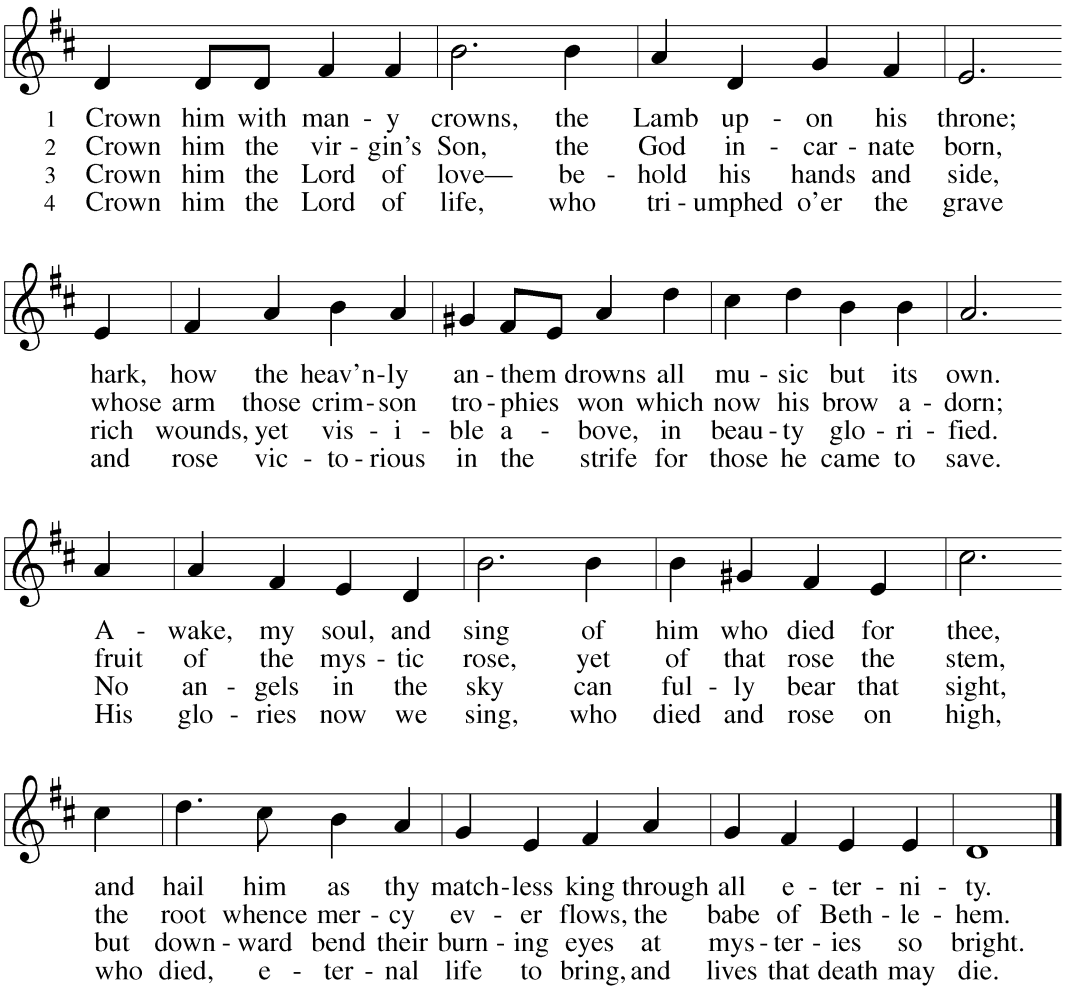
Our gospel on this final Sunday of the church year is Jesus of Nazareth's great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who minister to the poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. Our reading from Ezekiel declares that God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Jesus the Christ and his victory over death, even as we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging the Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Prelude — *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* — J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns



5 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose pow'r a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flow'rs of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

6 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey 1816–1893

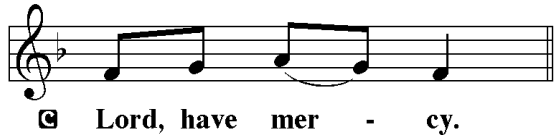
Apostolic Greeting

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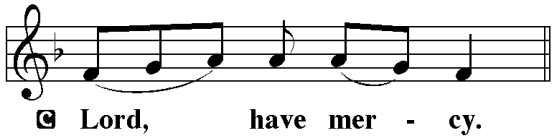
C: And also with you.

Kyrie
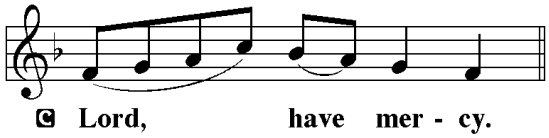
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



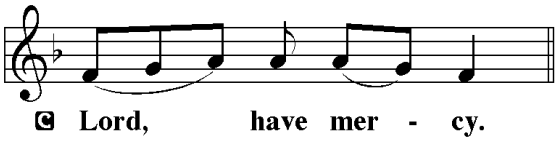
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
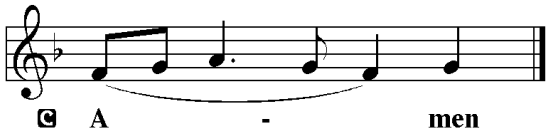


P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
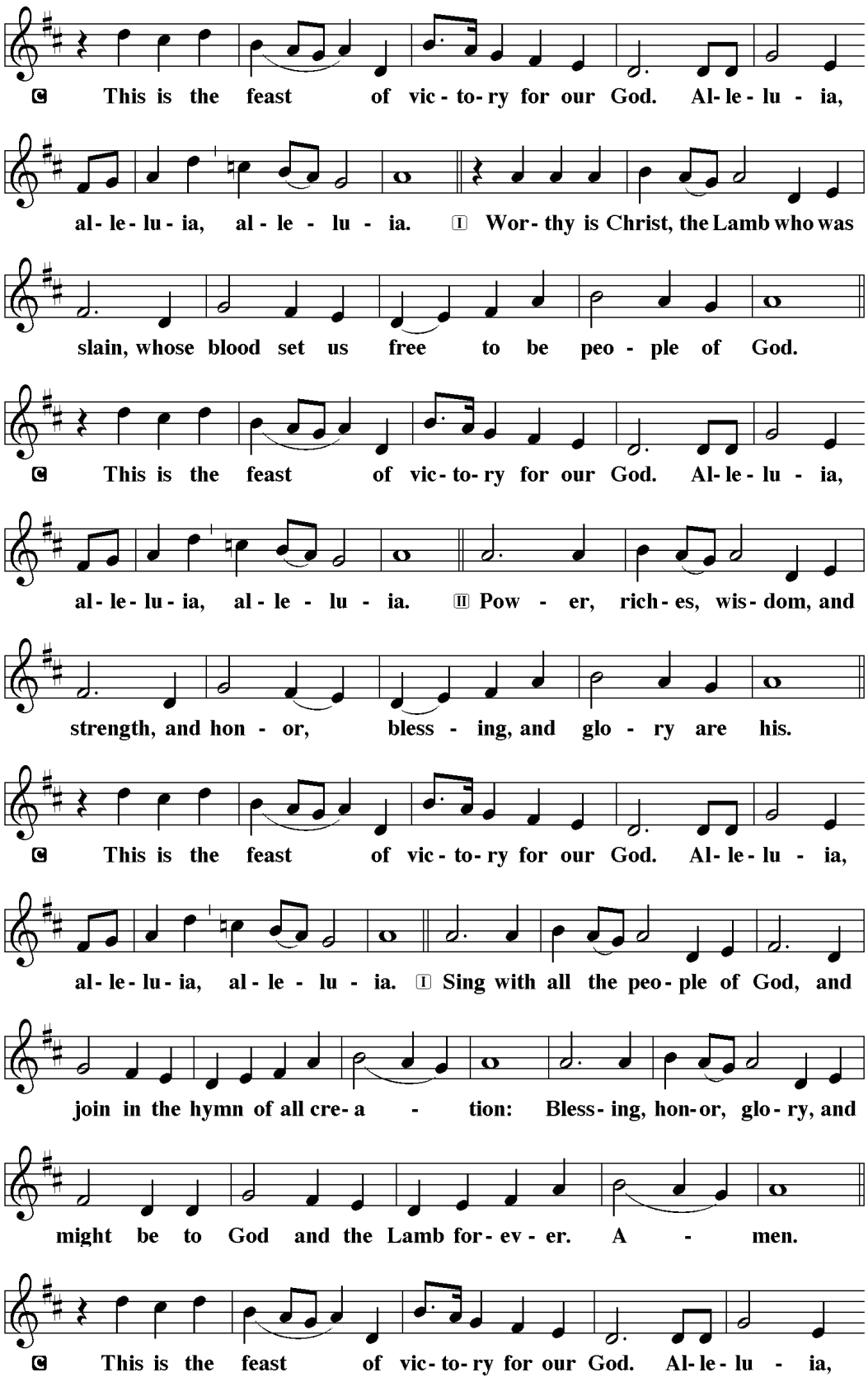


P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

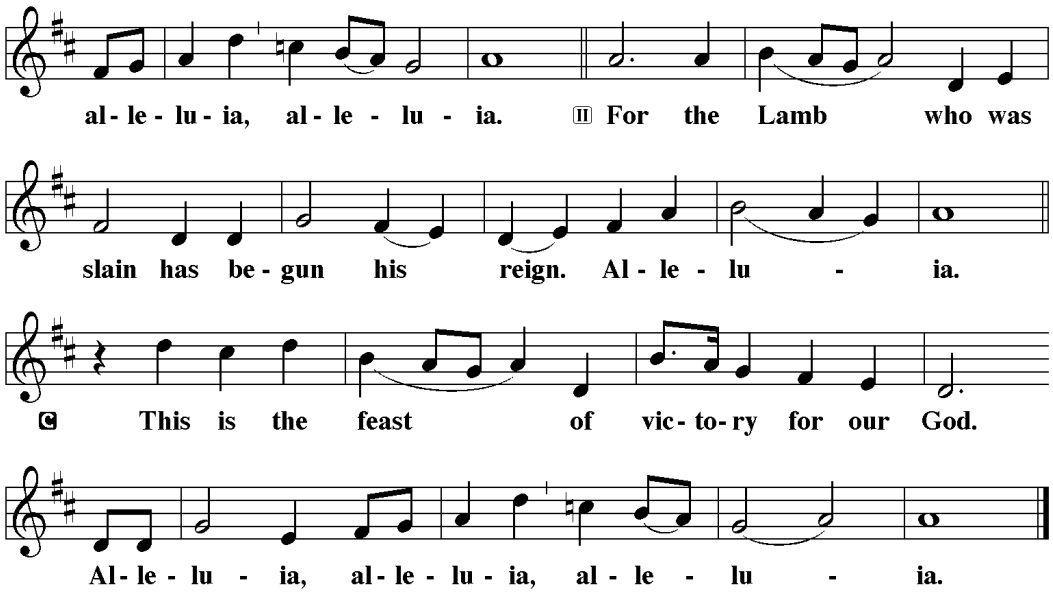


P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
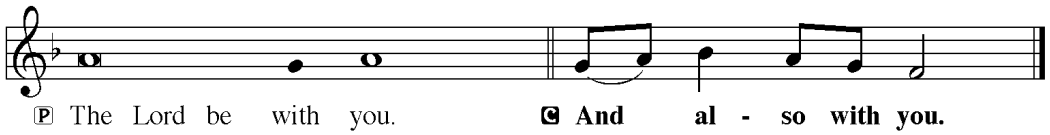


Hymn of Praise





Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: 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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

Since 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.

[11]Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. [12]As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek 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 will 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 strayed, 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.

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

Psalm 95:1-7a (sung in unison)

This psalm is a call to worship the great God and Ruler, Creator of all the earth.
We are his sheep, the people of God's pasture.

Come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2]Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.
[3]For the LORD | is a great God,*
and a great king a- | bove all gods.
[4]In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills | are his also.
[5]The sea is his, | for he made it,*
and his hands have molded | the dry land.
[6]Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,*
and kneel before the | LORD our maker.
[7]For he | is our God,*
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.
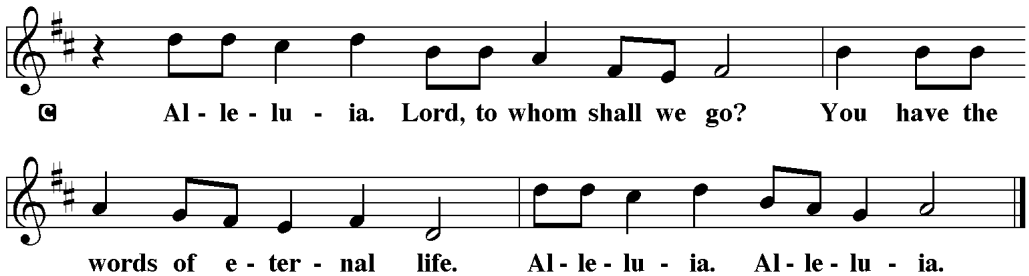
Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus the Christ from the dead.
The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the Church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

[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]I pray 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 know 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.
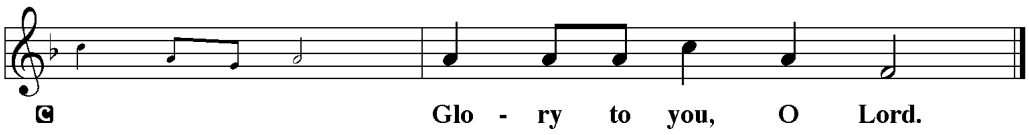
L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 25:31-46

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

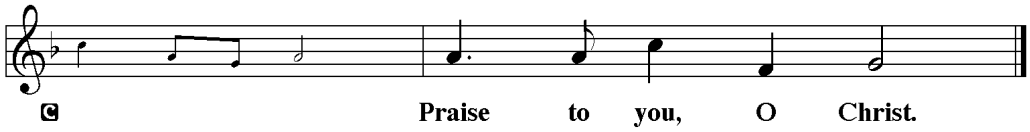


Jesus of Nazareth speaks of a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.



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 that 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 who are members of my family, you did it to me.' [41]Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that 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 the Lord.
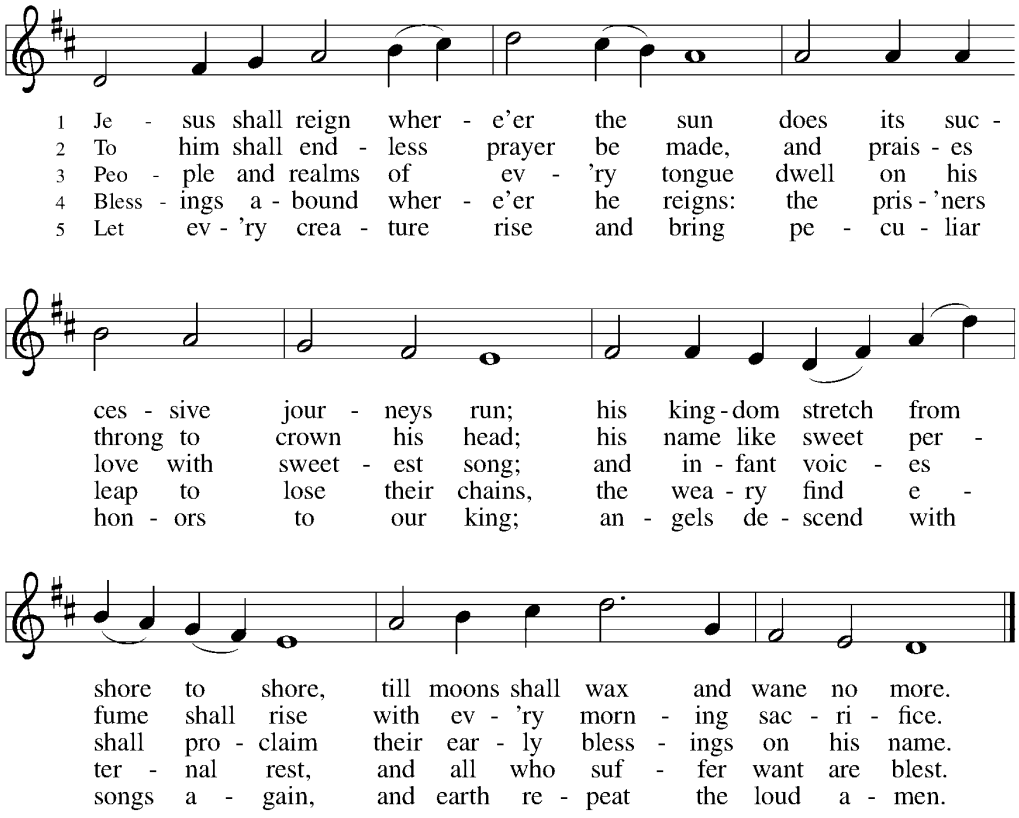


Sermon — Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign



The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we belove:

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

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

A: O God, 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Help us restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Accompany nations and 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

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.
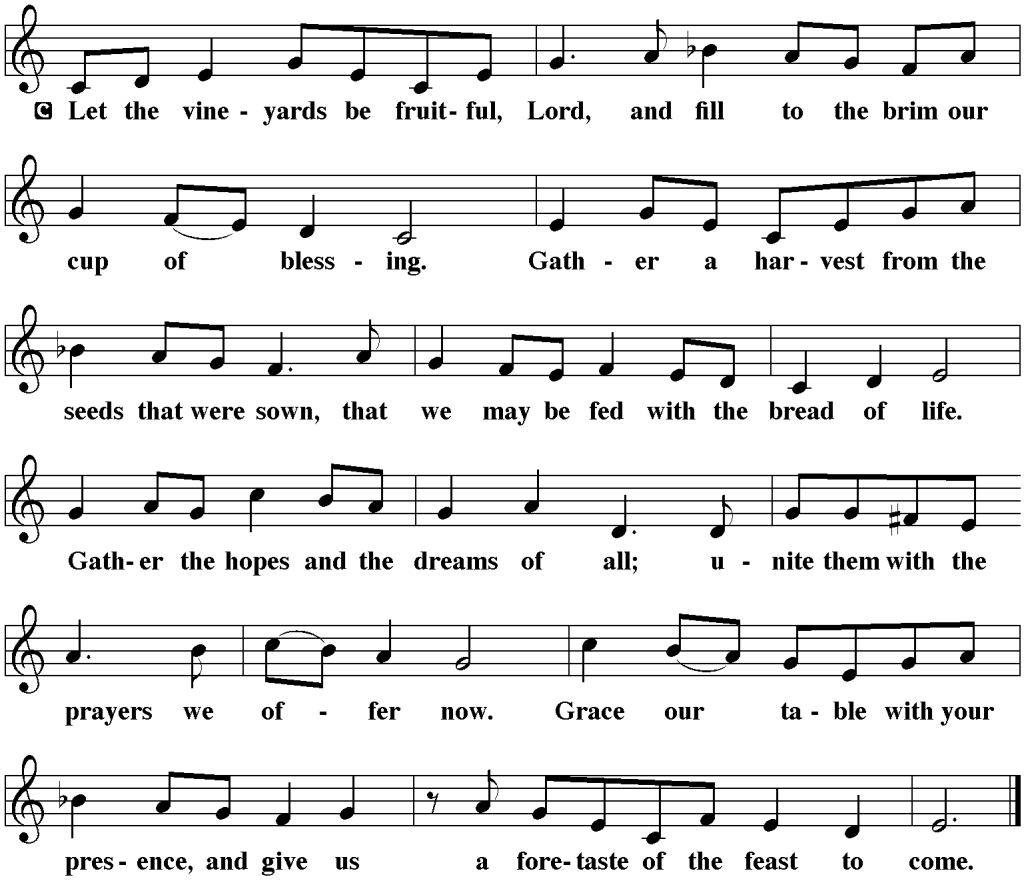
C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth,
the Lord has delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.
With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Offertory

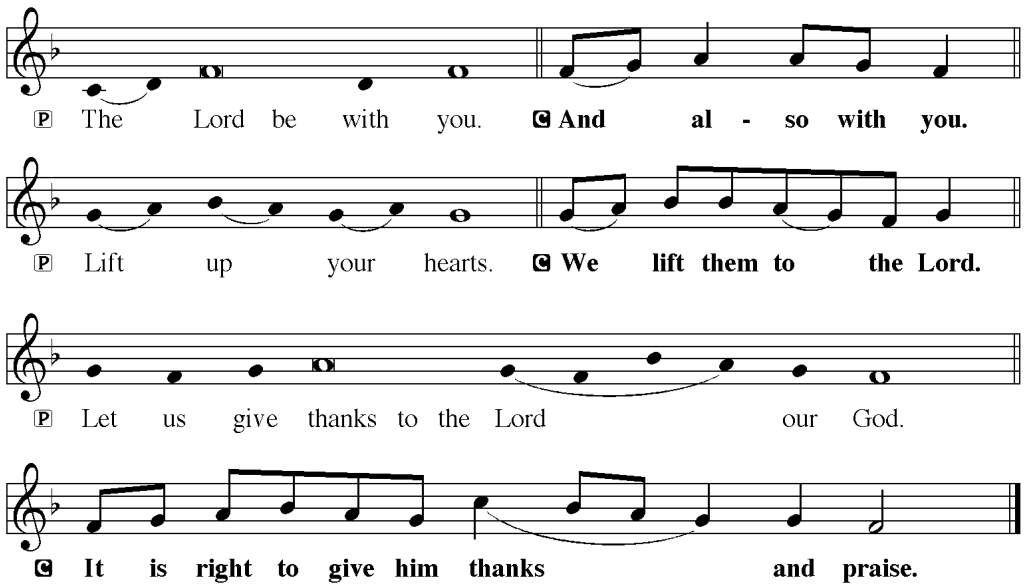


Offertory Prayer and Consecration of Pledges

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

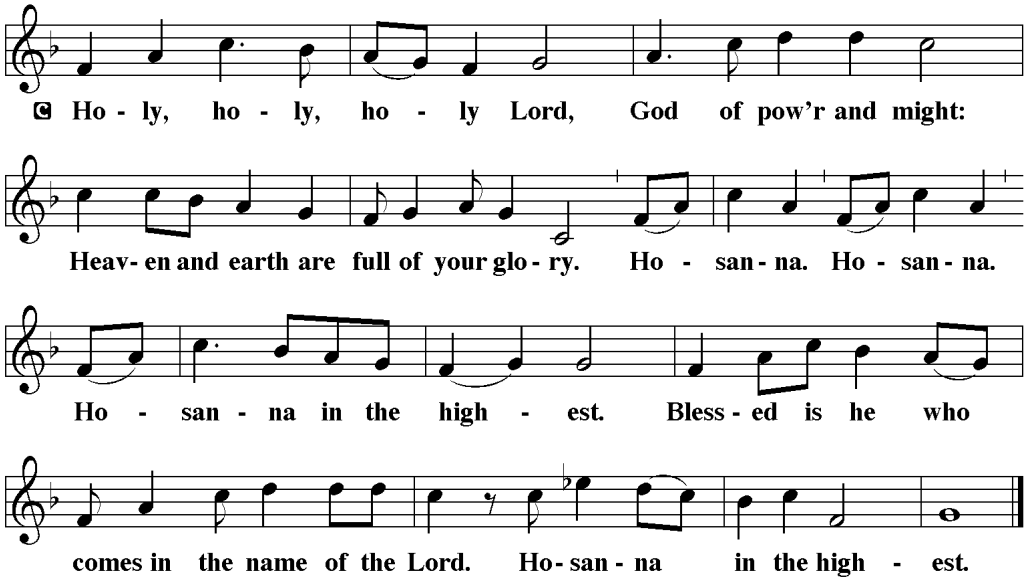
ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure, so that the light of your love may shine through each of us. We pray that you receive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

Great Thanksgiving



Proper Preface

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

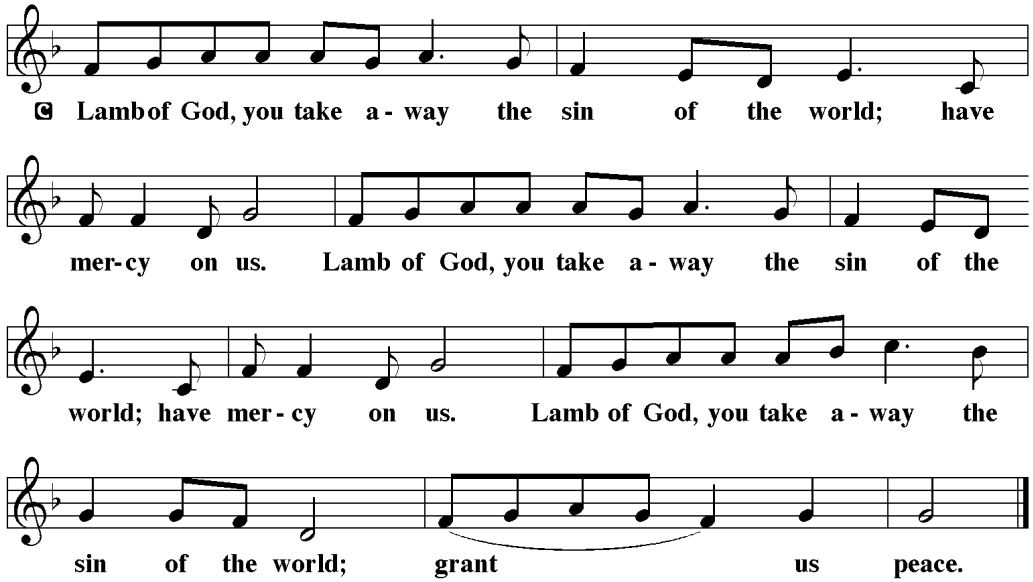
Lord's Prayer

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

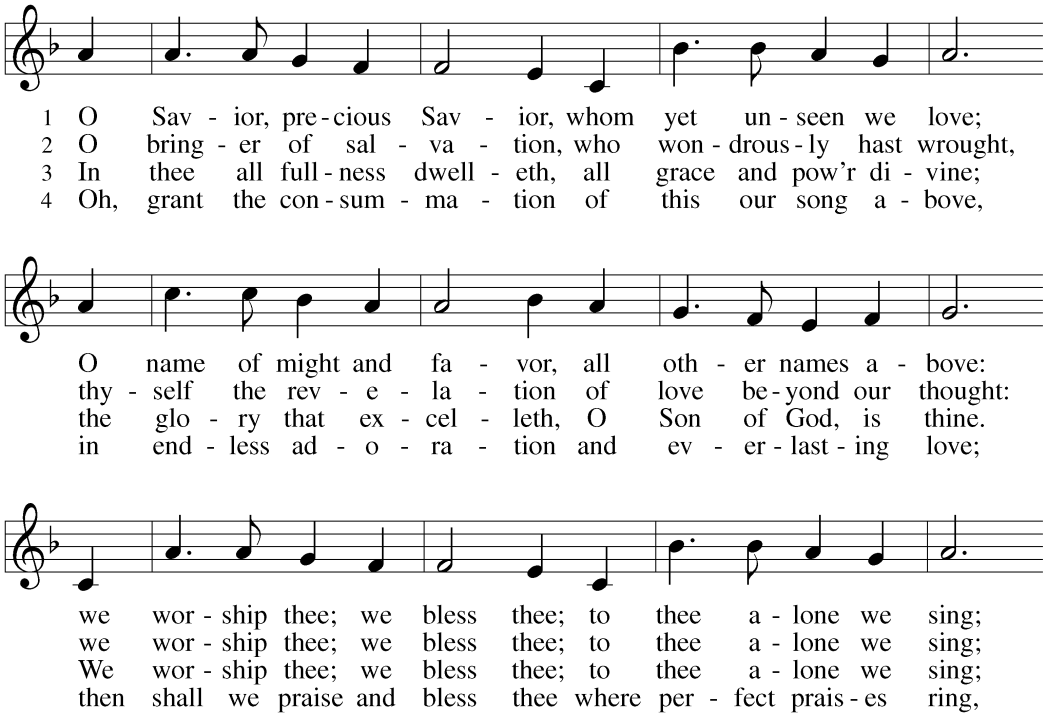
Communion with our Risen Lord
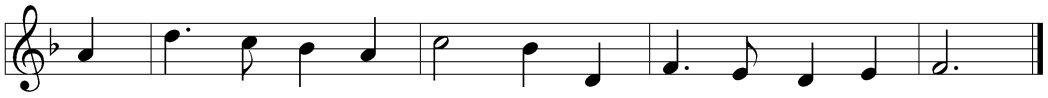
Agnus Dei



Hymn

O Savior, Precious Savior





Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

For the Fruit of All Creation

(tune: *Ar hyd y nos*)

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For his gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

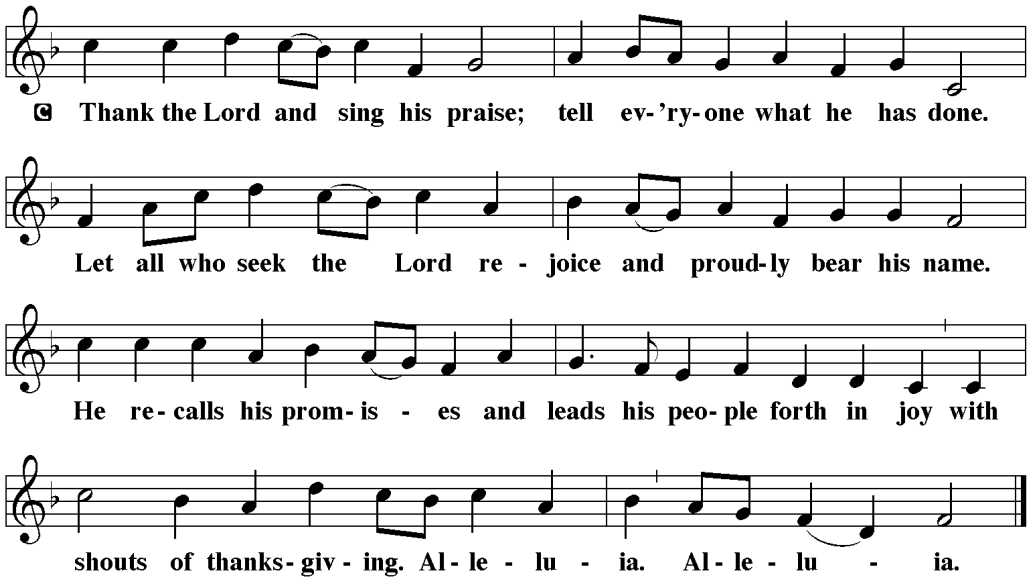
2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 Canticle

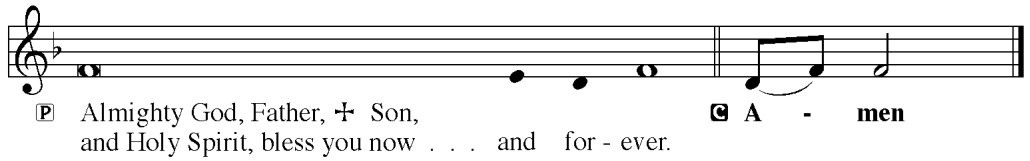


Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.
Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

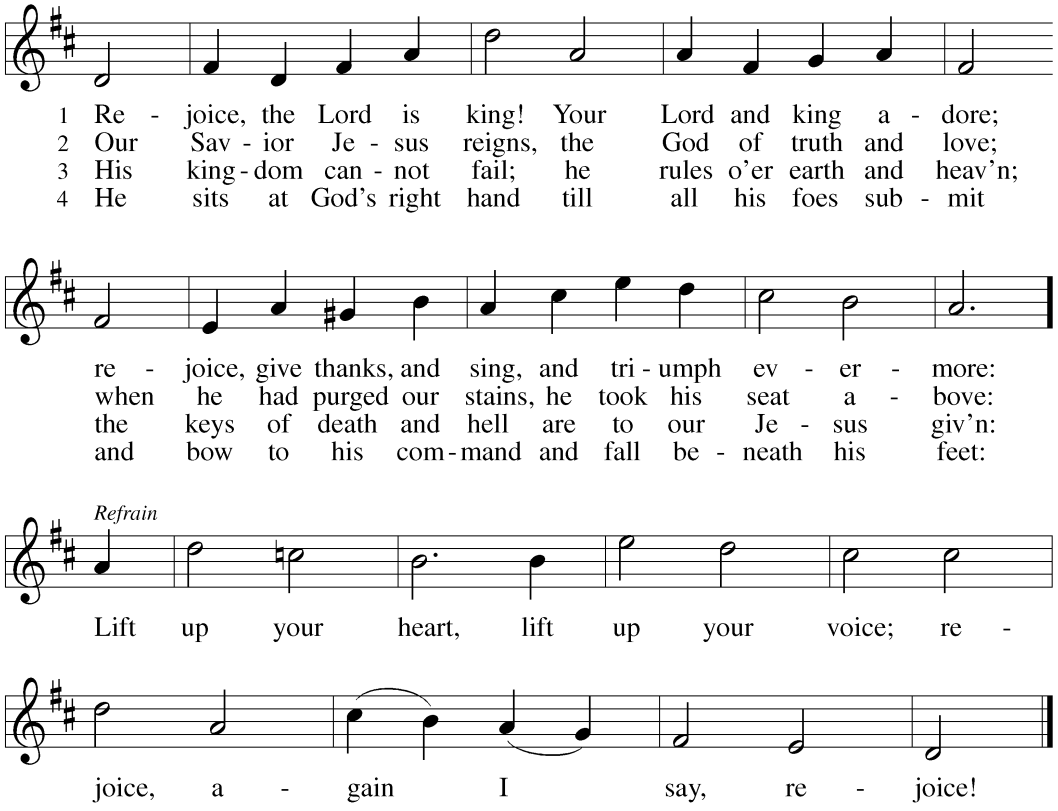
C: Amen

Benediction



Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!



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

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Gaudeamus* ("Let Us Rejoice") Sidney S. Campbell (1909-1974)

✣ ✣ ✣

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

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)
	12:15 p.m.	Youth return from *Lost & Found* Synod Event
	6:00 p.m.	God in Film - *The Greatest Showman*
Monday,	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
November 23	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Connecting with God - *Know God - Know Self* (via Zoom)
Tuesday,	7:00 p.m.	Usher Association: Head Ushers
November 24	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday,	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
November 25		
Thursday,	9:30 a.m.	Interfaith Service of Unity & Reflection
November 26		(at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church)
Thanksgiving Day		
Friday,		Church Office closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27		
Sunday,	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
November 29	9:30 a.m.	Advent Wreath Making
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Karen Kenny
in memory of Ione & Randy Fischer.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Wilma & Les Beebe
in honor of the twenty-fourth wedding anniversary of Patrick and Theresa Novotny.

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

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
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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