GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

7800 W. McCarthy Rd,
Palos Heights, IL 60463
708-448-4170

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

9:00 am Service of the Word

11:00 am Service of Holy Communion

The Pastor:
Rev. Chris Buresh

The Associate Pastor:
Rev. Andrew Bell

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry:
Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch

The truth will make you free

JOHN 8:32

Welcome

Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God's Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him.

LUTHER AND THE BIBLE



Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

REFORMATION SUNDAY: STANDING FIRM IN FAITH

Reformation Sunday reminds us of the enduring gift of God's Word and the truth that we are saved by grace through faith. May we remain rooted in Scripture, grateful for those who have carried the faith before us and committed to sharing the good news with future generations.

REFORMATION Sunday

GATHERING

The Prelude: *"A Mighty Fortress" from "Festival Te Deum" Bish*

The Call to Worship (9:00): ***"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Hakes***
(11:00): ***"When We All Live As One" Burrows***
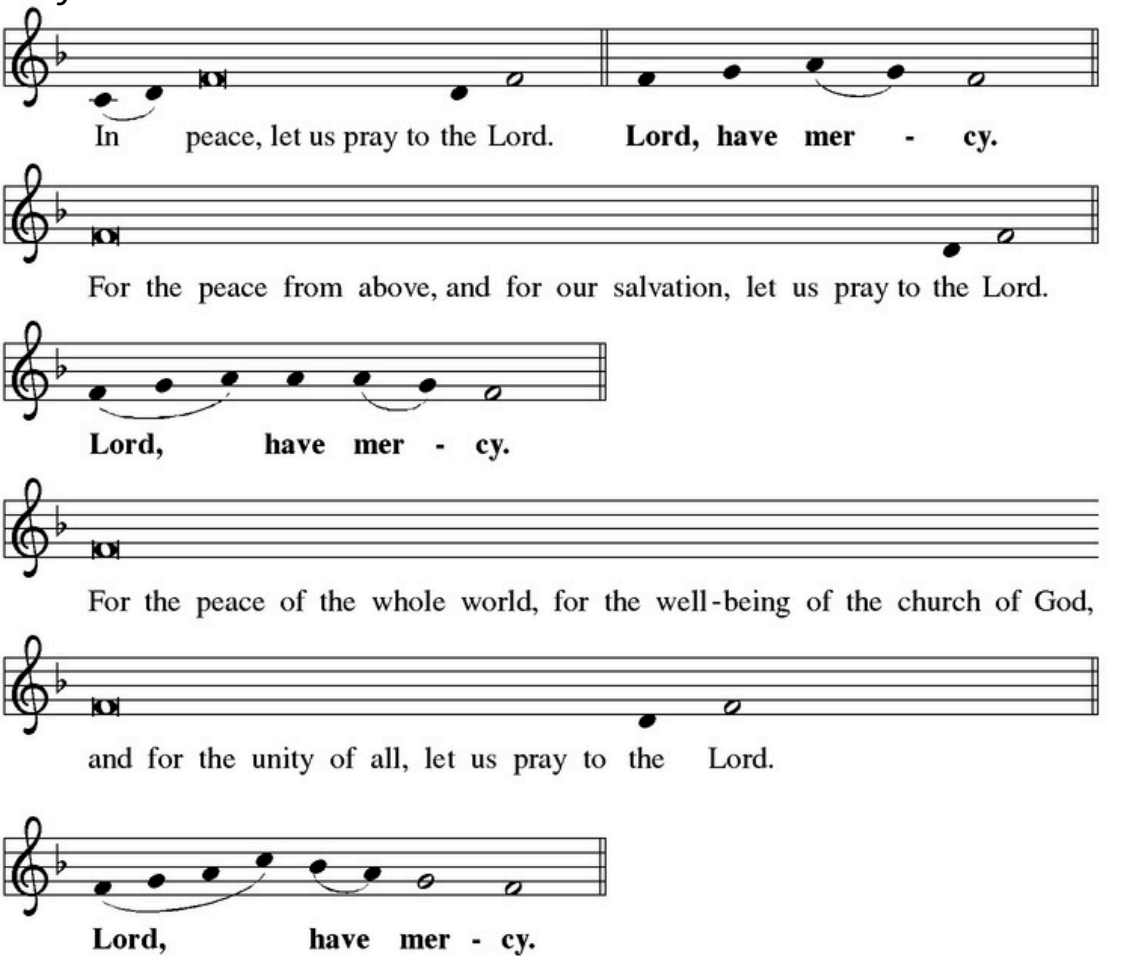
The Opening Anthem (11:00): ***"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Dunn***

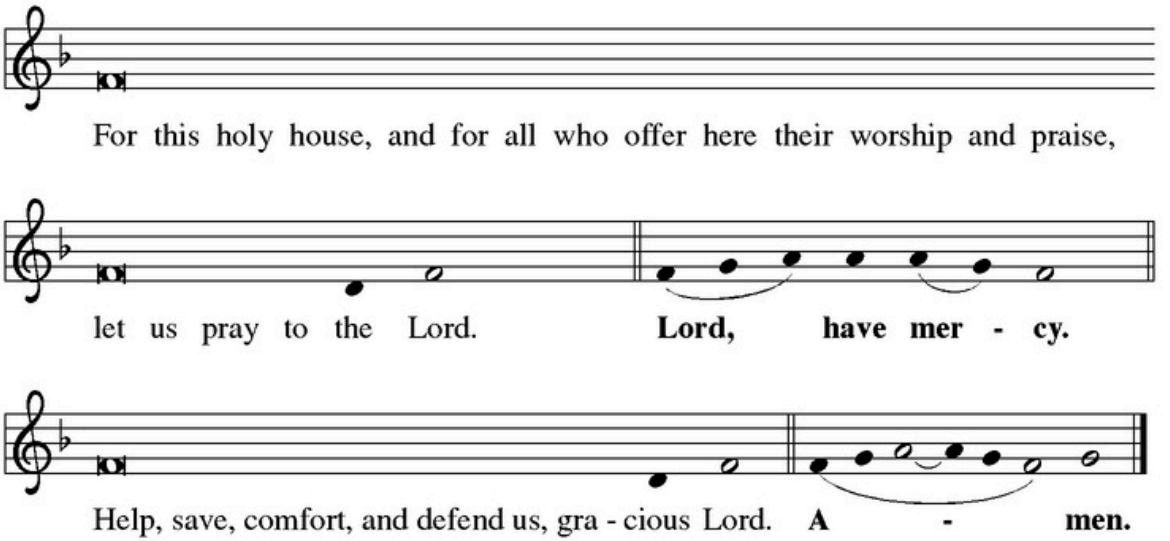
+The Opening Hymn: "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" No. 504

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.**

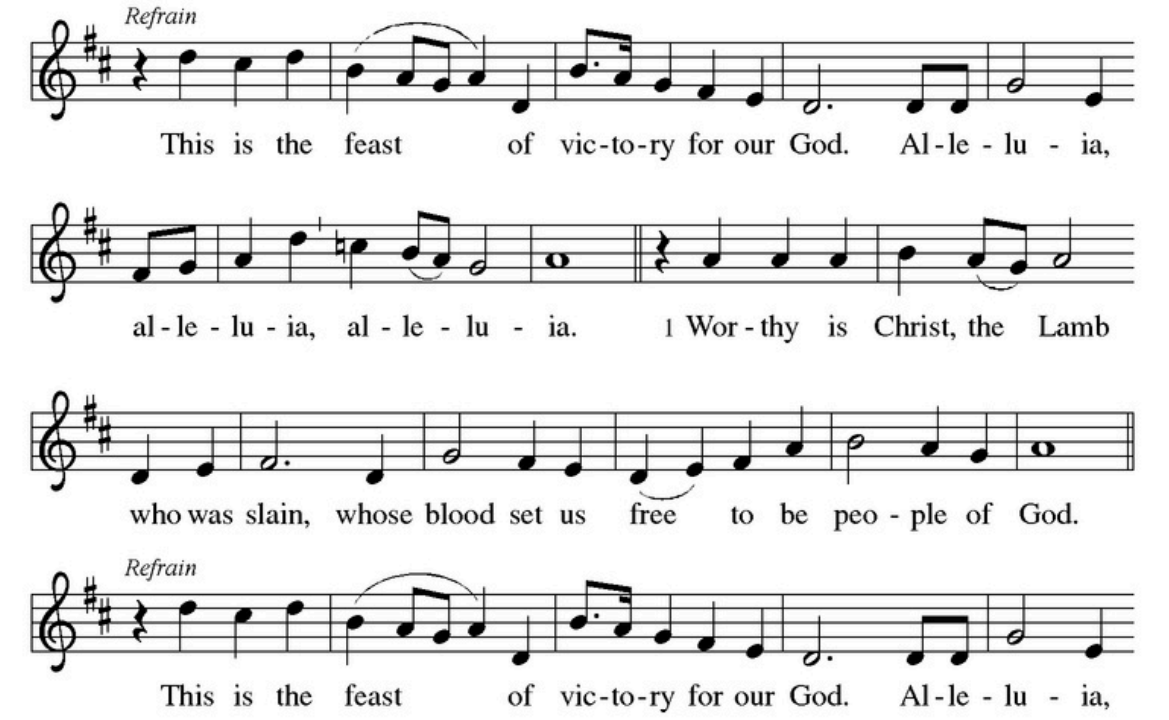
The Service of Holy Communion - 11:00 am
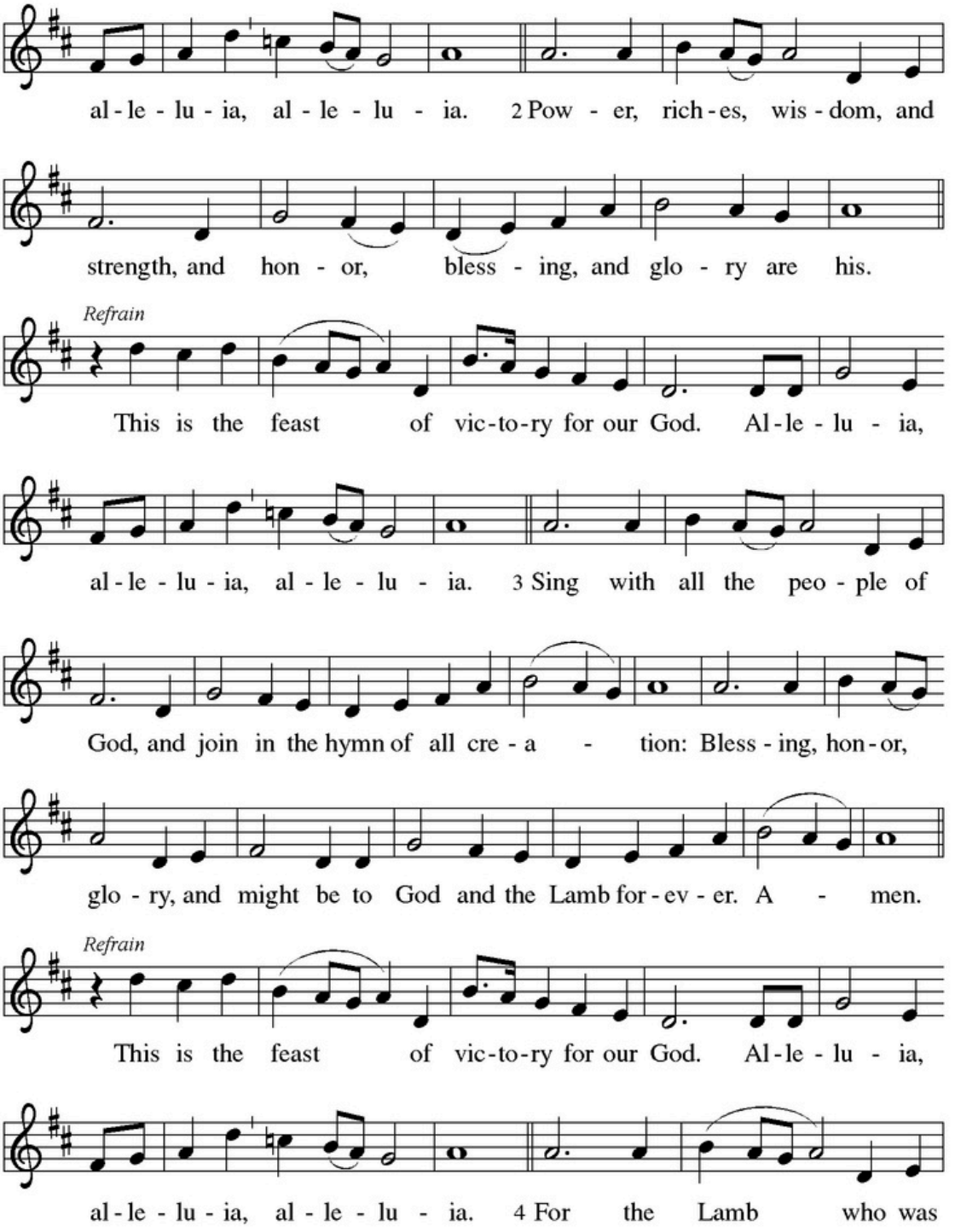
+ The Kyrie:
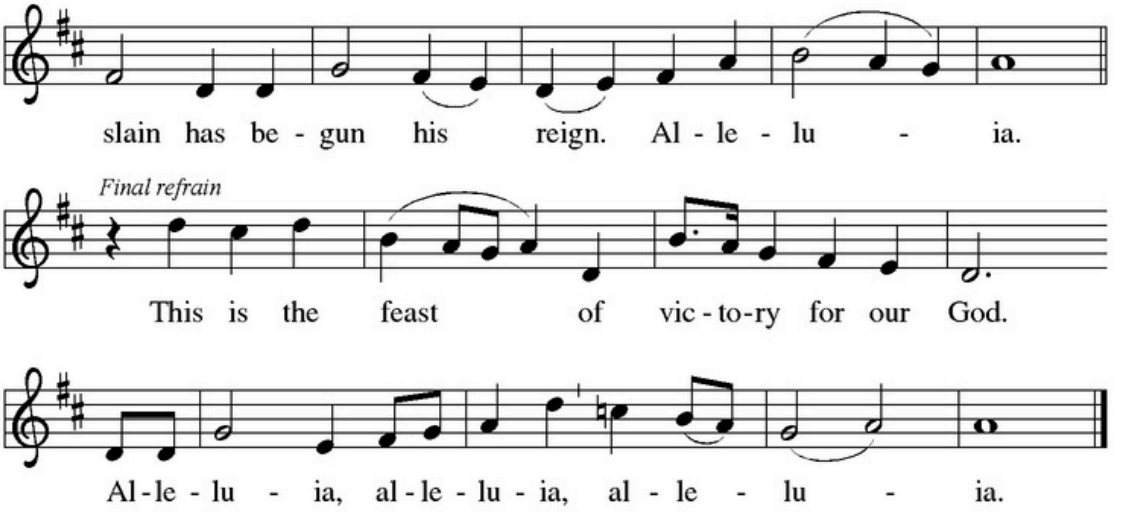




+ The Canticle of Praise:

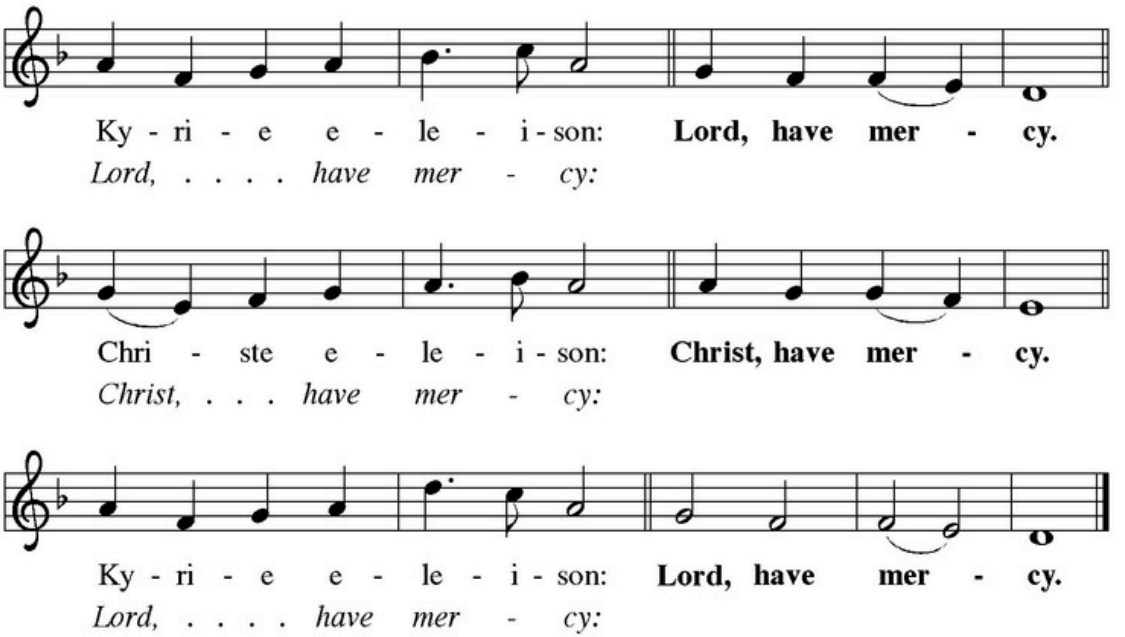



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

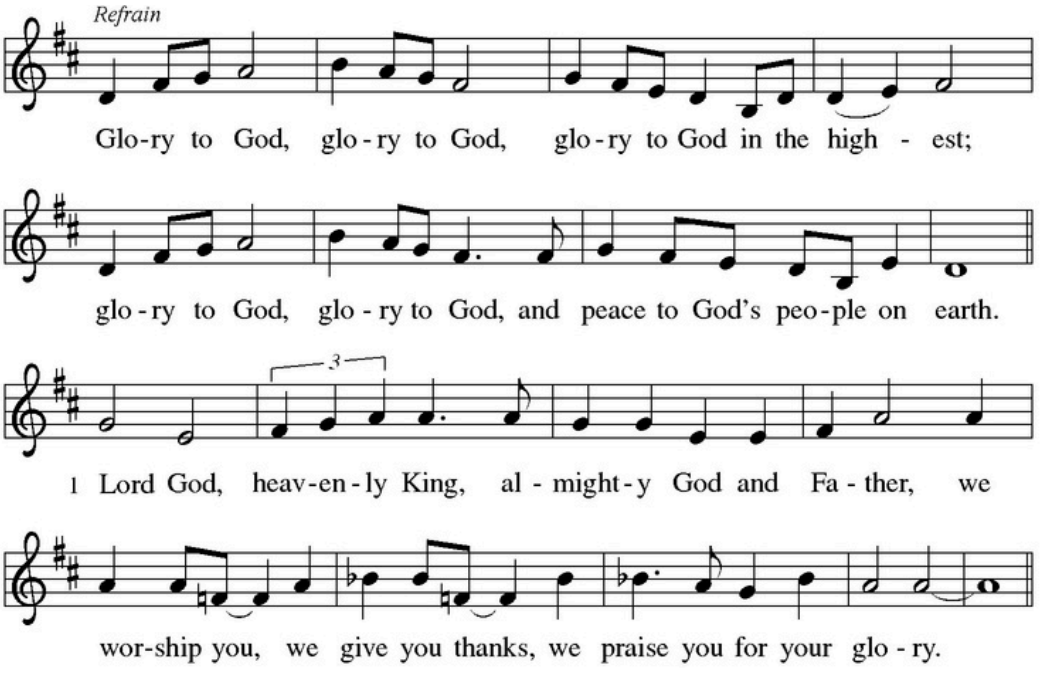


The Service of the Word - 9:00 am

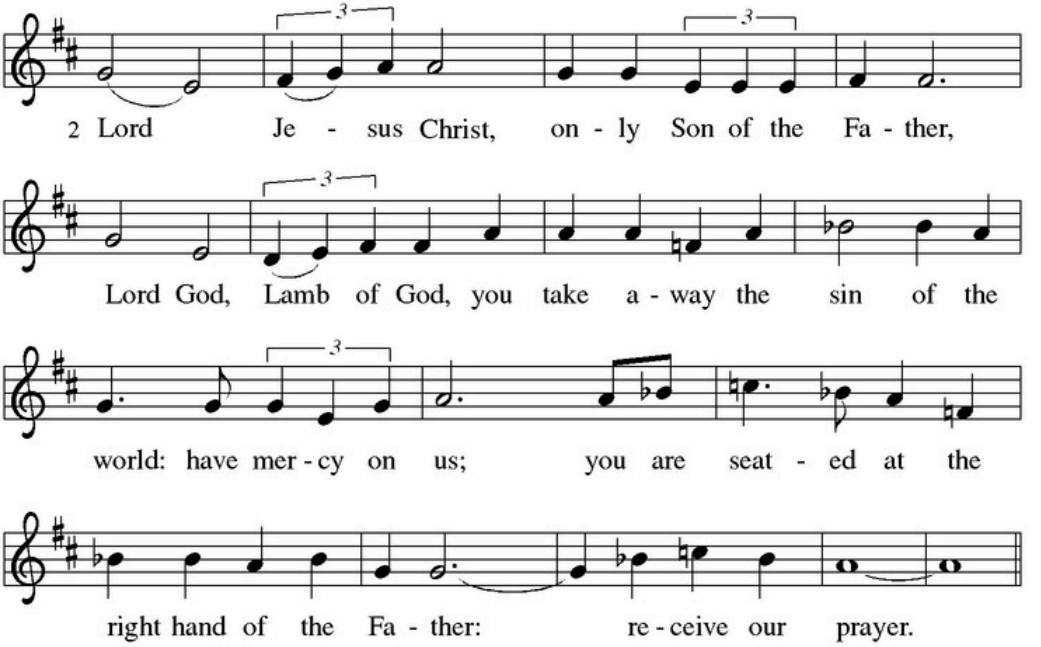
+ The Kyrie:
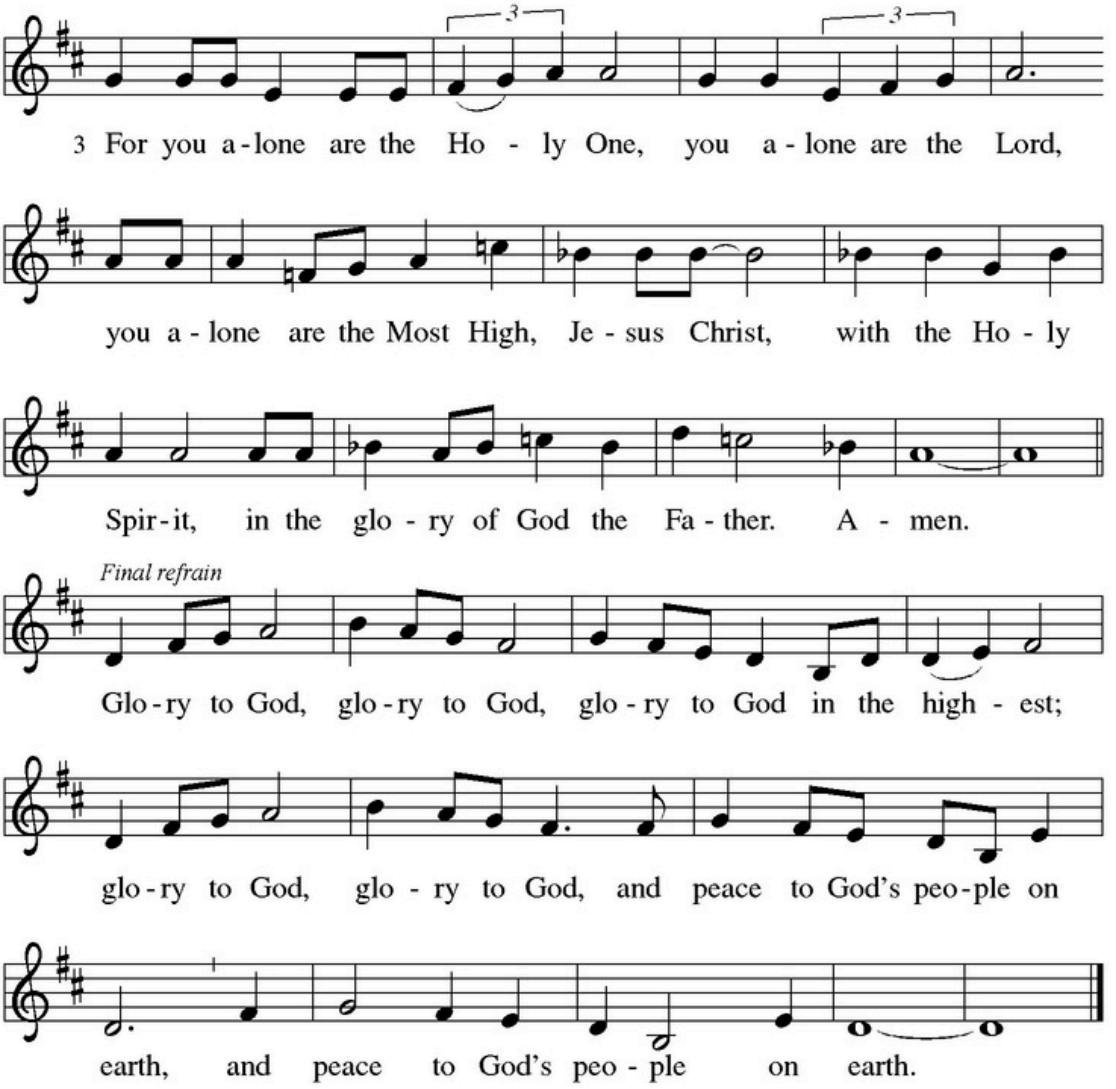


+The Canticle of Praise:



Sing Refrain



Sing Refrain



+ The Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

+ The Readings for Reformation Sunday

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.

The Anthem: 9:00: ***"My Jesus, I Love Thee" Ingram***

11:00: ***"You Are Not Alone" Ijames***



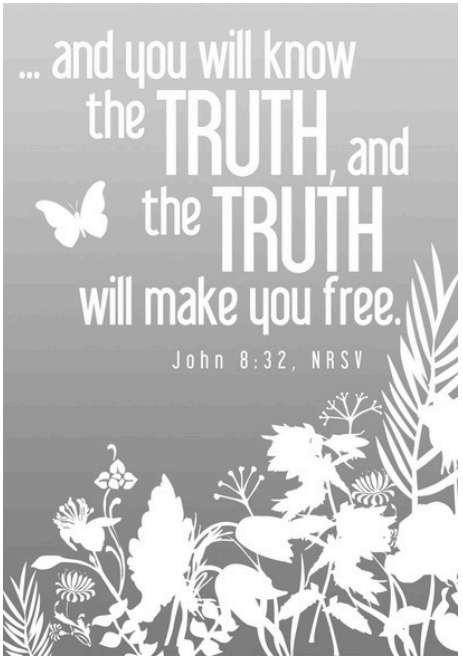
WORD

The Holy 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."

L: This is the Word of God, the Word of life.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon: **"I Pledge Allegiance . . . "**



+The Hymn of the Day: “HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION” No. 796

+The Apostles’ 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

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 your church here, at our partner Jubilate Parish, and in all places, 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. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray that your truth may make righteous the justice of our world and country. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, attorneys and all who serve our nation and communities. 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 (*especially*). 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved deceased. 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.**

+ Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

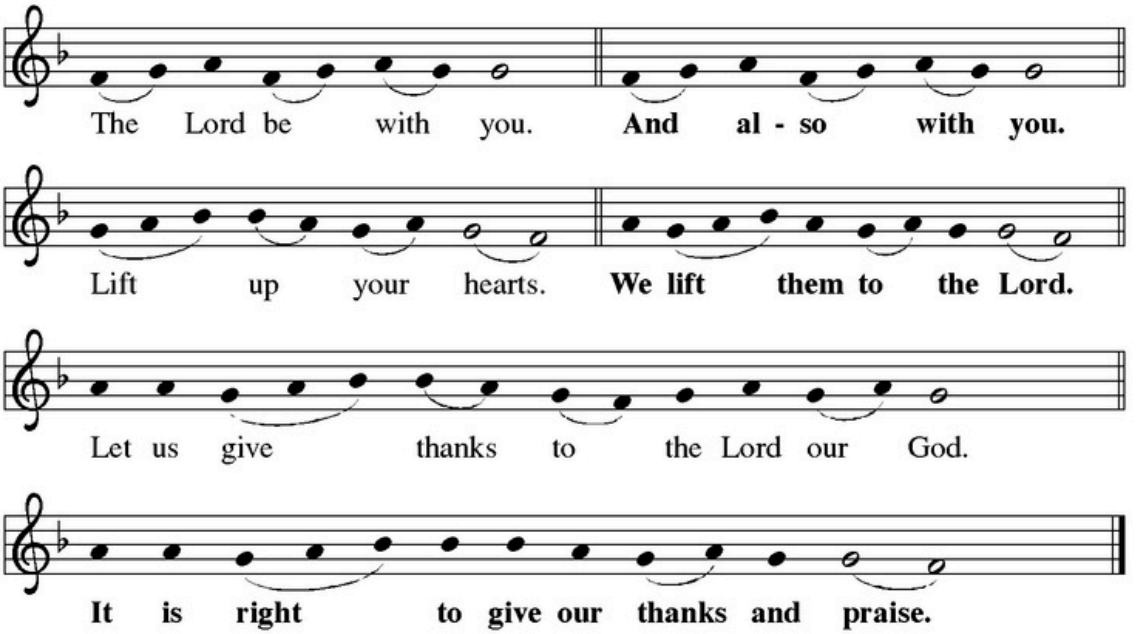
The Voluntary: *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" Pethel*

Service of Holy Communion - 11:00 am

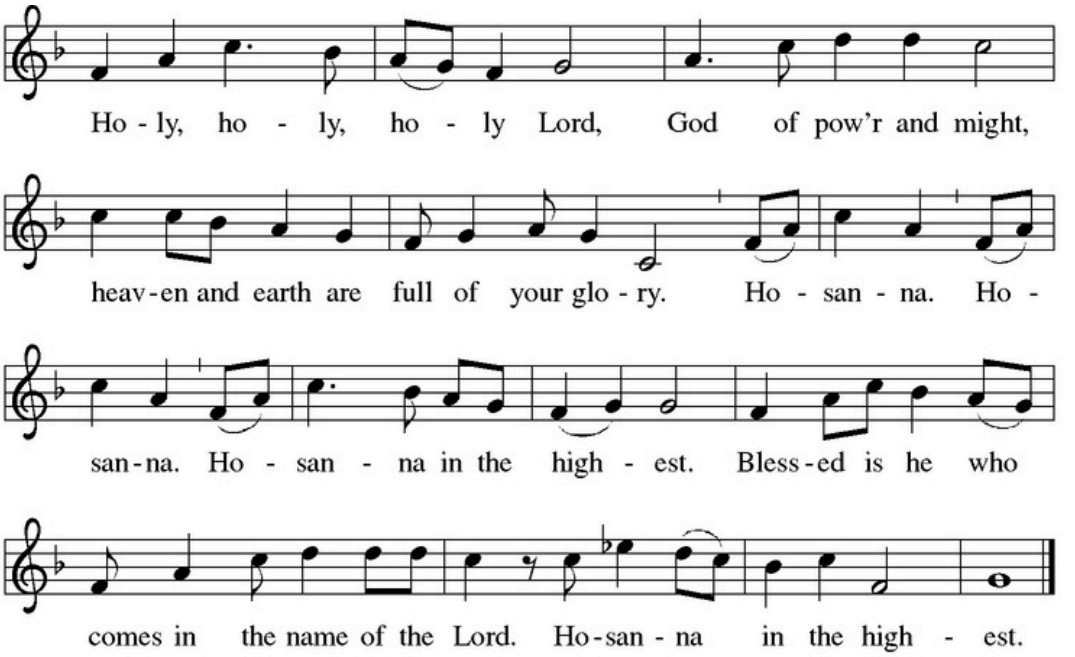
MEAL

+The Offering Prayer

+The Great Thanksgiving

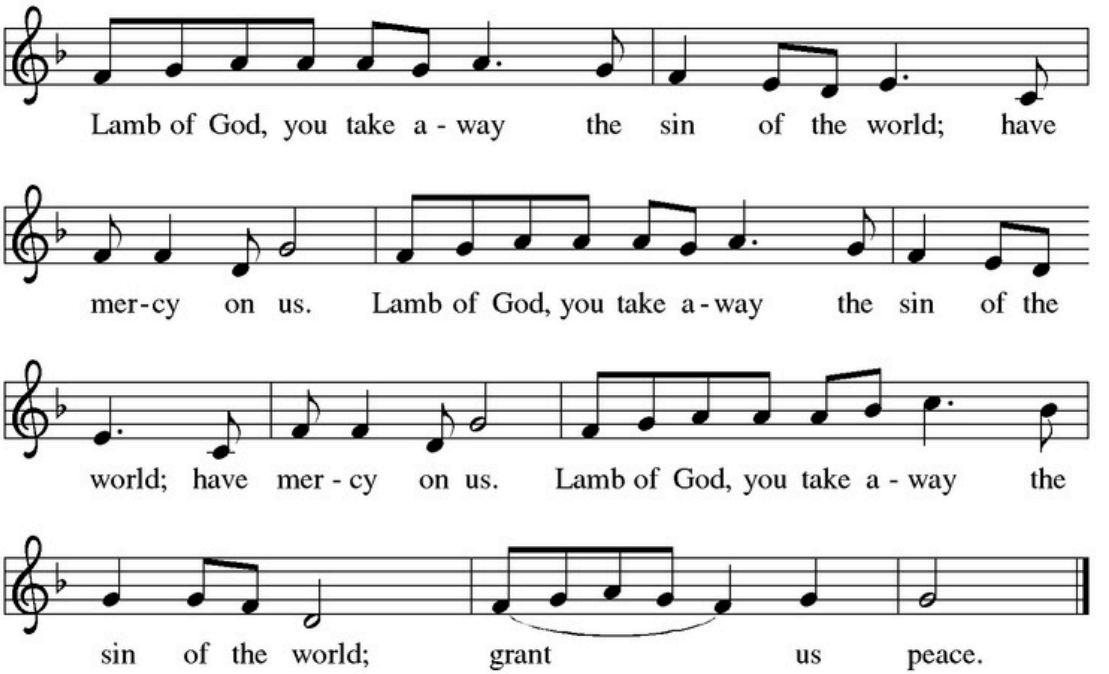


+The Preface is sung by the pastor.



+The Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor.

+The Lord's Prayer



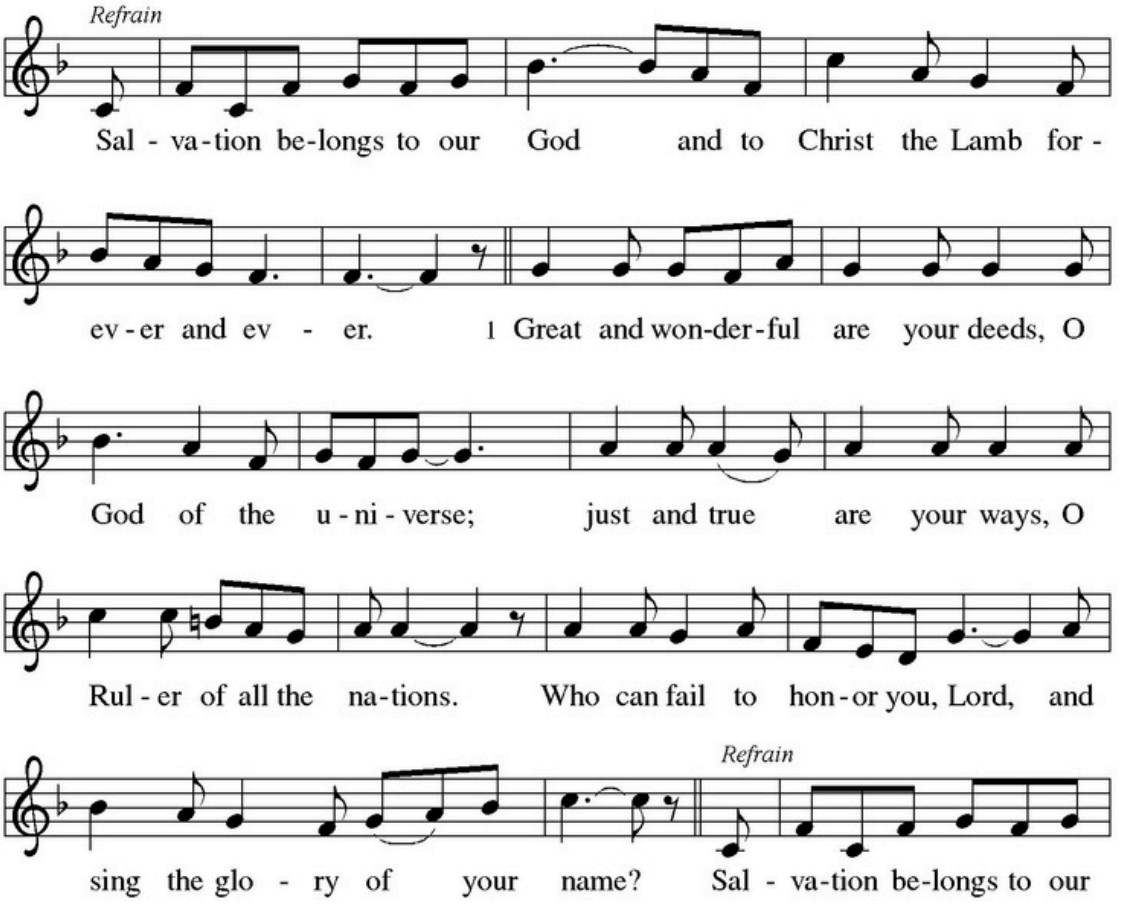
THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

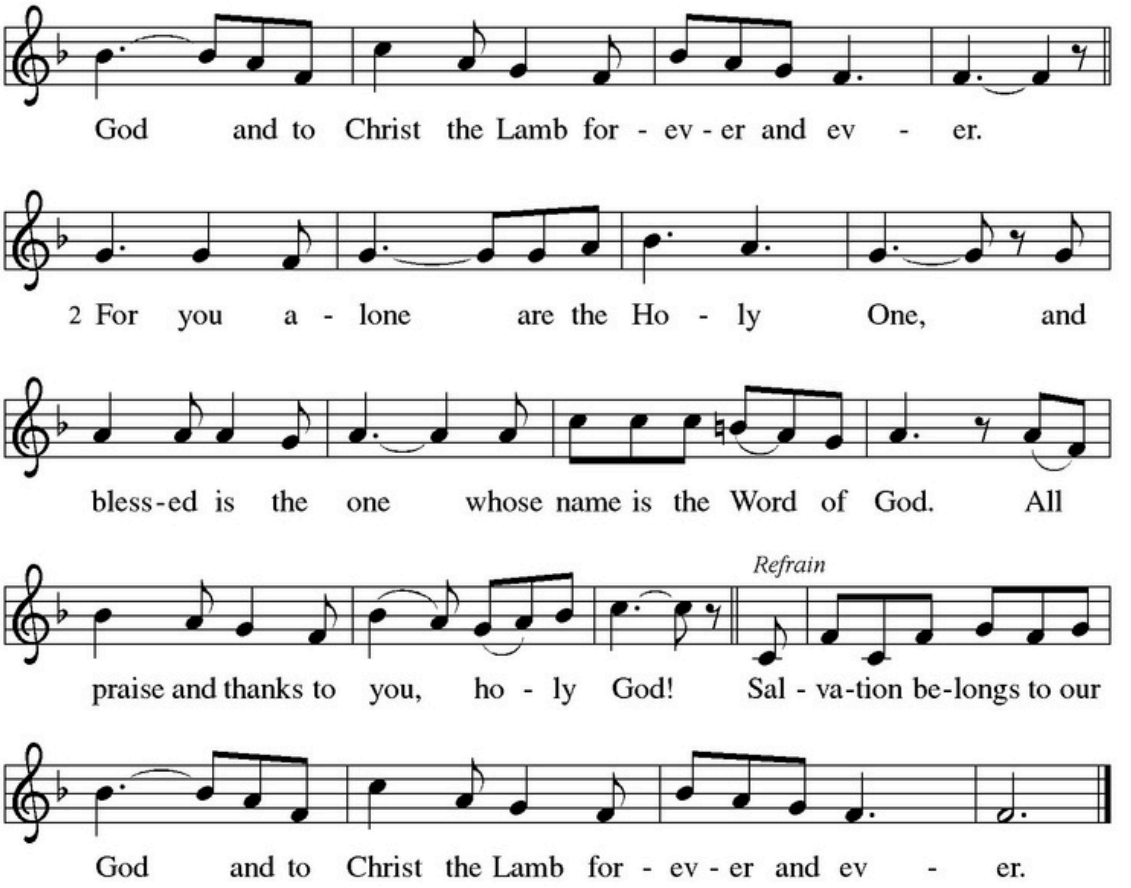
Please use this time for quiet reflection on the tremendous gifts of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all.

+ The Prayer after Communion

Service of the Word - 9:00 am

+The Canticle of Thanksgiving:





+ The Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word
+ The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

+The Benediction
+The Dismissal is spoken by the pastor.
Response: **Thanks be to God**

+SENDING HYMN: "DRAWN TO THE LIGHT" No. 593

The Postlude: *"Toccata in D Minor" Bach*

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SERVING TODAY:

The Organist - *Beth Ridderhoff*
The Director of the Adult Choir - *Aaron Basch*
The Director of the Carillon Choir - *Michelle Podewell*
The Director of the Cherub Choir - *Angie Pope*
The Readers -9:00 - *Rich Jelinek*
11:00 - *Deanna Wachholz*
The Acolytes - 9:00 - *Joe Enderle and Nathan Enderle*
11:00 - *Ben Schmitt and Ron Krapf*

Today's chancel flowers are given by the Kupka family in loving memory of Michael and by Carol Miller and Jill Price in celebration of the 50th anniversary of their Good Shepherd membership.

Our Intercessions Include:

New Parents: Doug and Megan Lotter, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth

Our Mission Statement

A caring fellowship of all God's people empowered by grace to proclaim the gospel and lovingly serve as Jesus teaches.

Our Vision Statement

Transforming lives by making the hope of God real through bold faith, service, outreach, discipleship and helping all people discover their God-given value.

Core Values

Encouraging each other in our lifelong journey of faith through our core values of:

-Drawing nearer to God
-Prioritizing Love over Judgment
-Practicing Grace
-Welcoming All
-Generously Serving
-Fostering Community

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday. As we worship, we recall the saints who have gifted us with the legacy of faith. Come and wear white as we give thanks to God.

Daylight Savings Time Ends next Sunday, Nov. 1. Be sure to turn your clocks back and come to church well rested!

Warm Hearts Spread Warmth! The Missions Committee will be collecting new and gently used coats and blankets now through Sunday, November 22. Bring your items to the narthex on Sunday mornings. Donations will be distributed by *Beds Plus and South Suburban Pads* to help their clients.

Immanuel is being ordained on Sunday, November 15. Join in this moving service, which will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange beginning at 3:00 pm.

Leave Immanuel a note of encouragement on one of the green paper leaves that are in the narthex. They will be collected and given to him at his ordination as a gift from Good Shepherd.

The church fall Garden Clean Up is tomorrow, October 26 at 4:00 pm. We need your help to winterize our garden by removing annual plants, trimming our perennial plants and for winter readiness. Bring your garden gloves and join us!

We are going racing on Nov. 8 at K-1 Indoor racing in Mokena. *This is open to all our 6th-12th graders plus friends and family.* Racers must be 58" (4'10") or taller We are asking for $25 per driver, but please don't let money stop you from coming. Please RSVP by Nov. 1.

Trunk or Treat was a huge success! Thank you to all those who participated in any way! Everyone had a blast!

If you have left over Halloween candy, a basket will be in the Narthex next Sunday, November 1. This candy goes to various organizations and is also used for the gingerbread houses.

Attention Parents of infants through kindergarten!! Join us on Saturday, November 7 as "Miss Angie" entertains both child and parent with musical fun. Feel free to invite a friend along! Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church nursery.

Sunday School is collecting plastic bread tags through May, 2027. So keep collecting and turn them in to a Sunday School classroom, the Welcome Table or Mrs. Lori's office.

The calendar for the week of October 25, 2026

MON	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" - YouTube/FB Junior Choir 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation "Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group Bible Study Discovering the Bible
WED	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:30 pm 9:00 pm	Carillon Choir Prayer Walk
SUN	 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:10 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	ALL SAINTS DAY Service of Holy Communion *Online Service* 8th Grade Confirmation Cherub Choir Service of the Word Sunday School



Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website.
Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Bob Held
Bonnie Elzinga
Ellen Thiele
Joyce Pedersen
Matthew Vitt
JoAnn Montecki
Barb Bergamo
Matt Brett
Gail Kendall
Lori Cronin
Barry Garr Jr.
Gerhard Haigis
Jim Srbeny
Bill Innocenti

Friends of the Congregation

Wally Cross
Joanne Garcia
Nancy Mitchell
Ken Karlson
Peggy Williams
Shirley Smith
Kathy Dompeling
Gary Gamauf
Bob Stevens
Dorthy Norris
Linda Mazurek
Judi LaBuda
Chuck Johnson
Donna Herpich
Sylvia Rodriguez
Steve Hayward
John Ledwitch
Nicholas Lyon
Matt Mansfield
Donna O'Malley
Linda D'Oyley
Kathleen Cantillon
Linda Celesia
Kim Heck
Robbie Glocker
Adrienne Manley
Ron Warnke
Craig Chismarick
Marilyn Veselack
Walter Kroll
Dolores Wrzesinski
Kaylee Wynn
Andre Swanson
Chuck Singleton
Laura Nicholson
Tom Elsner
Debra Casey
Laura Reynolds
Joe Kaderabek
Louise Sims
Jason Randall Glugla
Tim Hennessey
Katy Peterman
Dale Koch
Maryanne Campbell
Alex Gersic
Silvia Guijarro

Please let us know if there is someone you need added or removed
from the prayer list by contacting the church office by 9 am on Friday. Thank You!