

The 21th Sunday After Pentecost

October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

C: 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.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

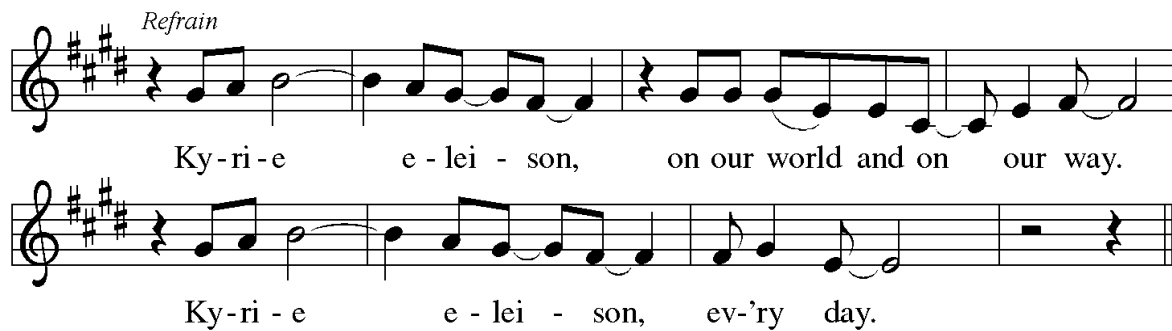
***OPENING HYMN**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW #789

***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.**



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name;

I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

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

PSALM 96:1-9 [10-13] (*read responsively*)

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

[¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

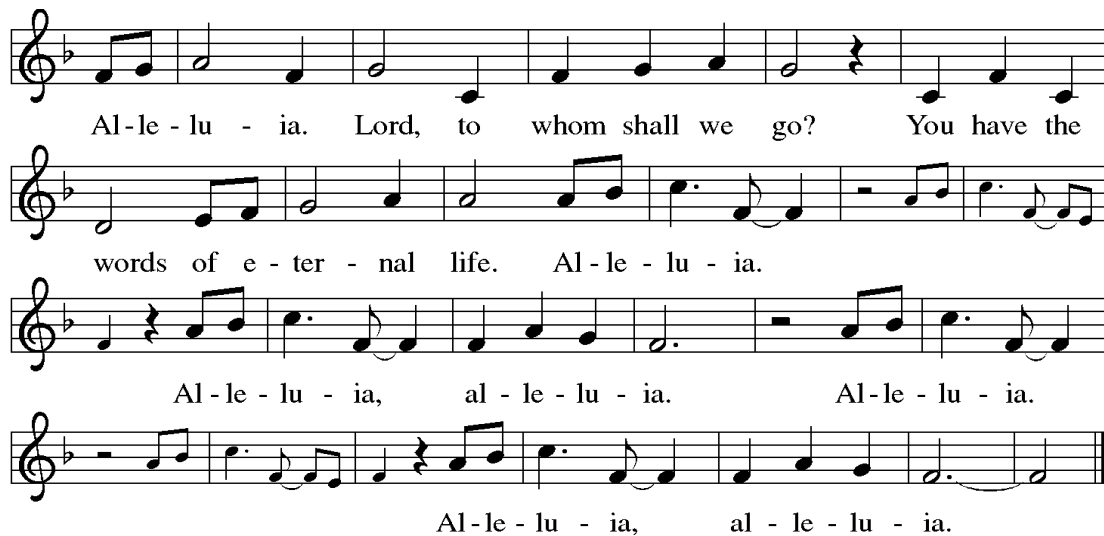
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor
of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know,
brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our
message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the
Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we
proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of
the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the
Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia
and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known,
so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of
welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a
living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from
the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

HOMILY

Peggy Steinfurth

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

You Servants of God

ELW #825

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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 THE CHURCH**

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

A: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

***LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

***BENEDICTION**

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

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

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING SONG** *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* *ELW # 886*

***DISMISSAL**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of our Father's 100th birthday on October 22nd by Ed Kreider & Karen Greenleaf.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Pianists – Ben Decker, Sheila Bumbarger

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolyte – Gabby Decker

Our Lector – Jean Sinal

Our Usher – Paul Decker

Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “United Lutheran Seminaries”

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413

Office Hours:

Pastor Traci is on vacation from 10/16-10/20.

In case of emergency, call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte at 814-934-9941.

Jen – Wed., Fri. – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This Week Events:

Today – *21st Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Wednesday – Mending Ministry 2:00-4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom

Sunday – *Reformation Sunday*
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Halloween Party 3:00-4:00 p.m., Lutheran Home Hollidaysburg

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Ruth Marshall.

Prayer Concerns: Ben, Greta Buchar, Doug Bush, Bill Davis, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Dwight and Bethany Kensinger and their newborn son, Rachel Kensinger, Kristen Malloy, Pat Mellot, Randy McGraw, John Murphy, Dan Ross, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Margie Smith, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Dr. Darwin Stapleton, Peggy Steinfurth, Jim Stewart, Jennifer Winston, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Mace Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchar, Melody Estep.



Community Thanksgiving Meal Desserts

Social Ministry Committee will be coordinating the desserts from St. Matthew for the annual Community Thanksgiving Meal on November 9, 2026, at the Martinsburg Church of God. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board.

New Bible Study Opportunity

Thanks to the work of the Go Tell It In The Mountains team, a new Bible Study opportunity will be available weekly beginning in October.

We have the ability to meet together in the Window Room and video conference with leaders and other participants from Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, and North West Pennsylvania Synods. You can also access the study by Zoom from your home. These lectionary studies will cover the upcoming Sunday's gospel and other readings as time permits, from 6:30PM to 7:30PM on Wednesdays. Watch your email for log-in information or join us in person at church to connect to the wider group.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Pericope-Based

BIBLE STUDY

— TOGETHER IN SCRIPTURE. STRONGER IN MINISTRY. —

Let's work together to bring weekly, pericope-based Bible study to our congregations and beyond—through Zoom!



ZOOM DETAILS

<https://zoom.us/j/94173815852?pwd=e74xTbZSrFi61YbwyCRAkGgMeox1G1>

Meeting Id: 941 7381 5852 | Passcode: 880291

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

BASE SCHEDULE	EXPANDED SCHEDULE
• 6:30 PM - Opening greeting and prayer for illumination • 6:33 PM - Study of the upcoming Sunday's texts • 7:20 PM - Prayer requests and praises	• 6:15-6:25 PM - Zoom session opens • 6:30 PM - Greeting & Prayer for illumination • 6:33 PM - Gospel, Old Testament and Epistle lessons, with time for discussion and real-life application • 7:20 PM - Prayer time • 7:30 PM - Conclude & end Zoom



LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!
GO TELL IT IN THE
Mountains



EMAIL US:
director@alleghensynod.com

Join us for the

4th Annual Blair-Huntingdon Halloween Party at the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg

**Costumes, games, food & fun with the
residents of the Lutheran Home
916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg
3PM to 4PM
Sunday, October 25th**



Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

 *Favorite clothing in need of repair?* 
Give it another chance!

**Bring laundered clothes that need mending
to work on yourself or get help from our sewers.
Materials, machines, & expertise provided.
*And we'll have snacks!***

**Wednesday, October 21st
2PM to 4PM**

***Meals will be provided to homebound members.**

Early Bird Registration Until November 1st

Registration open through November 20th

The Weekend.

**Allegheny Synod
6th - 12th Grade Youth Event
December 11-13, 2026**

St. James Lutheran Church ~ Huntingdon, PA

**Registration Materials Available at
<https://www.alleghenysynod.org>**





Join Pastor Traci & Angus at St. Matthew for
TRICK OR TREAT
No Trick or Treaters in your neighborhood?
No problem! Dozens of ghosts & goblins
trick or treat at church every year.



**6-8PM
Thursday
October 29**

Throw on a costume &
join us to give out candy.
Shopping for Trick or Treat?
Grab an extra bag for St. Matthew.
(Please drop off by Wednesday the 28th)

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Mt. Pleasant Church will be assisting the regular helpers with food distributions on Thursdays, November 5 and November 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

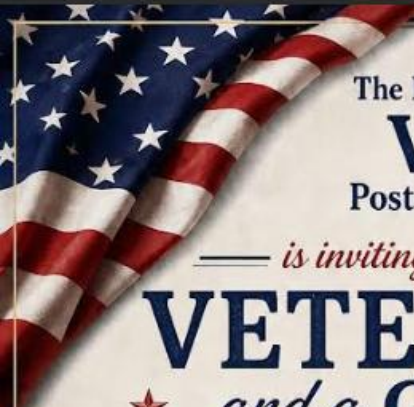
Thanksgiving dinners are being provided by several churches in the community for those food pantry families that want to prepare turkey dinners for themselves. Much appreciated!

Food items most needed for November:

Cereal, Macaroni, Pasta Sauce, Soup, and Rice Sides.

Thank you, members, for your donations for the food pantry!

Linda Smith



The D. Merl Tipton
VFW
Post 43 Auxiliary

— is inviting all area — ★ ★ ★

VETERANS
★ *and a* **GUEST** ★
to a

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026
★ **NOON TO 1:30 PM** ★

★ ★ **AT THE POST** ★ ★
115 S. NICODEMUS STREET
MARTINSBURG, PA

★ *Local entertainer* ★
TINA WALTERS ★
will offer vocal patriotic songs.

★ ★ *Please* ★ ★
MAKE A RESERVATION
NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 4
by calling

☎ **JANE FAGANS at 814 793-4401**

★ ★ **PLAN TO ATTEND AND ENJOY** ★ ★
GREAT FOOD, PATRIOTIC ENTERTAINMENT,
AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FELLOW VETERANS AND FRIENDS.



Journey to Bethlehem

*This year the Journey comes to you in a newly staged,
accessible performance of the story of Christmas*

Sunday, December 20th



*Anyone interested in participating in this year's
Journey to Bethlehem, which will be adapted for
seated performances in the sanctuary,
please contact Jane Fagans or Pastor Traci*

***OPENING HYMN**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW #789



- 1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
- 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
- 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
- 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



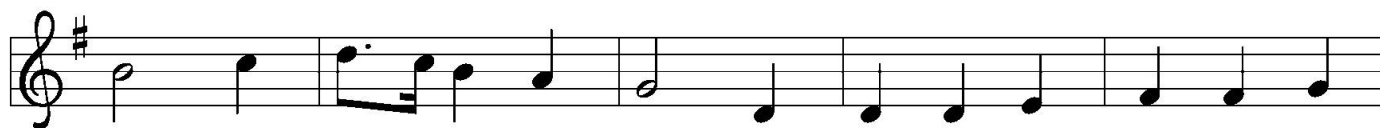
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

***SENDING SONG**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW # 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872