The 24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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

BLESSING OF THE HUNTERS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. ***C:*** **Amen.**

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

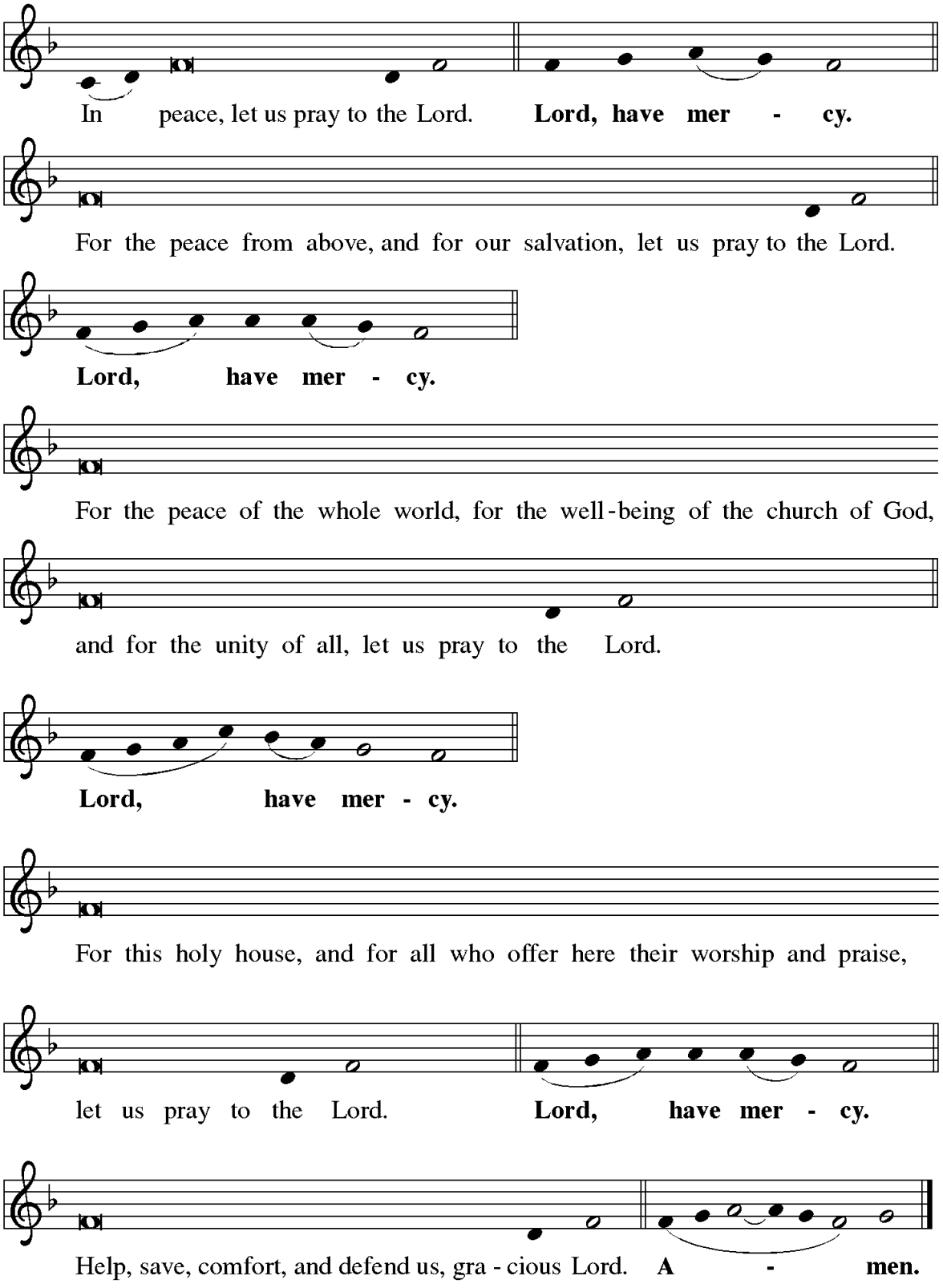
Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* *ELW #436*

***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.**


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
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.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.


Assisting minister
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray … O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***C:*** **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM 70 (*read responsively*)

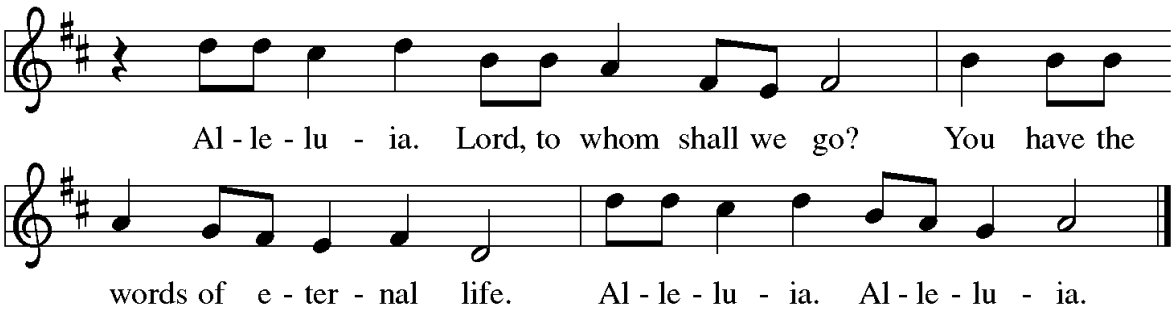
1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring
with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no
means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will
descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are
alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the
Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *S142a*



***Gospel:** Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten
young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them
were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took
no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then
all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise
replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the
dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the
bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding
banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also,

saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

HOMILY *Pastor Traci*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* *ACS #949*



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

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

A: You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

A: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

A: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

A: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

A: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

A: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, ***C:* hear our prayer.**

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

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

***C:* And also with you.**

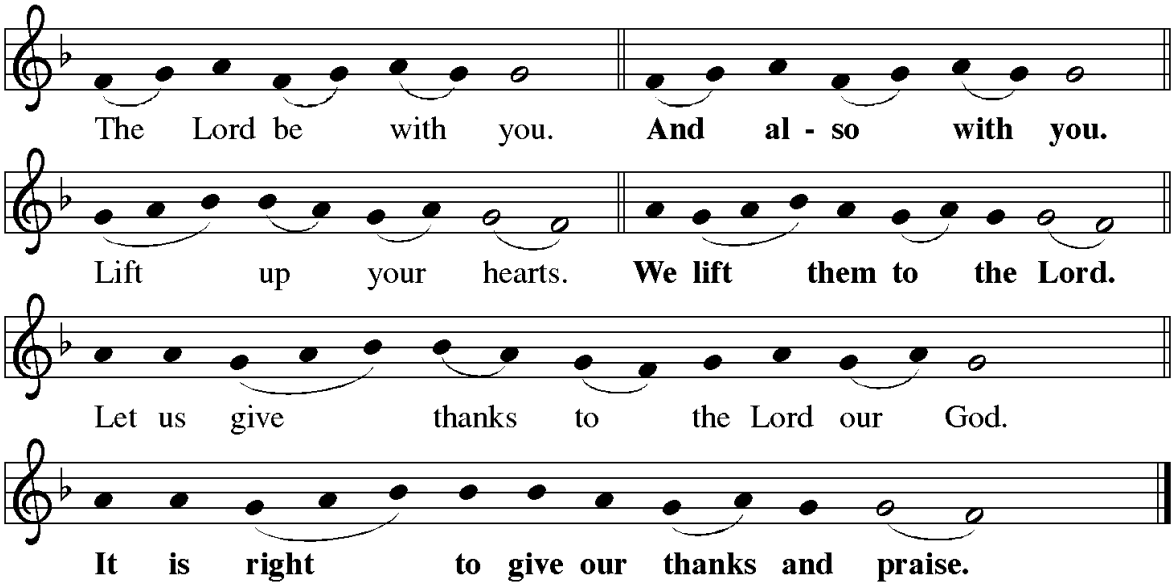
Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

*A: 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. ***C:* Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW # S144a

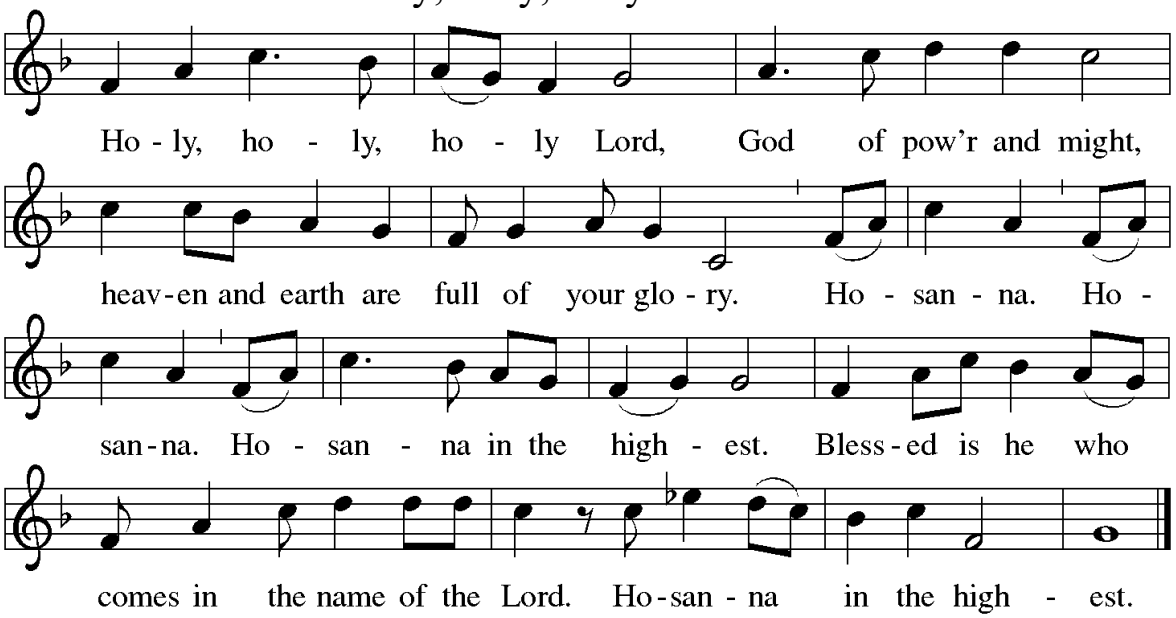


***PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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:

***SANCTUS** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord ELW # S144b



***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

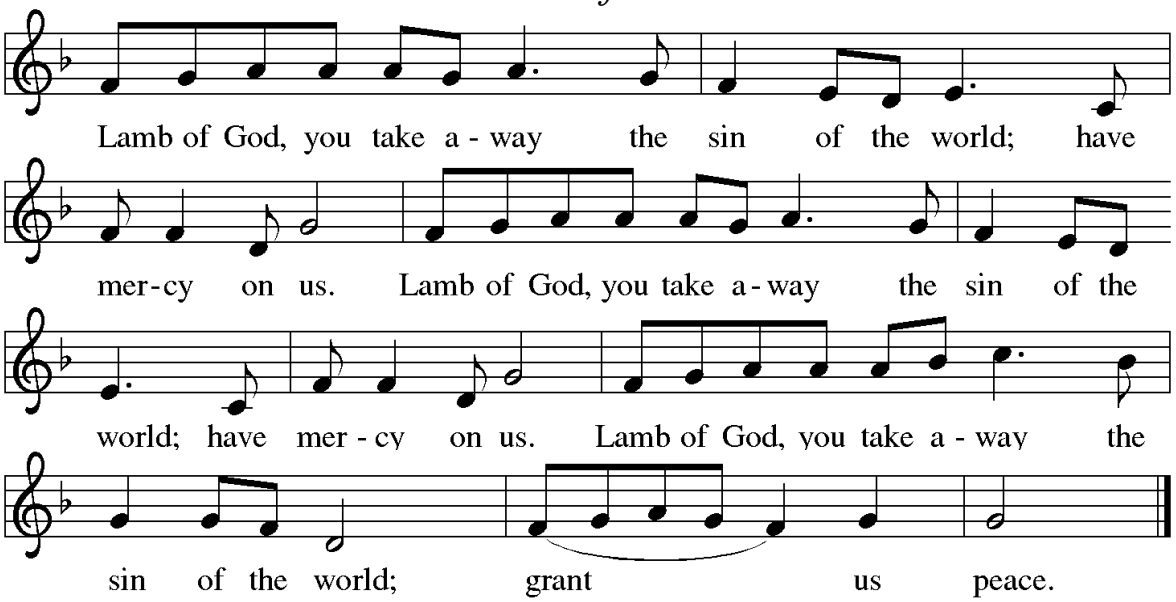
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***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.**

***THE AGNUS DEI** *Lamb of God* ELW # S146



***INVITATION**

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. ***C:*** **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* *ELW #* 435

***BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: *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. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* *ELW # 244*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another. **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 loved ones by Mary Nelson.

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 – Norah Kuster
Our Lector – Elaine Smith
Our Usher – Ed Kreider
Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Elaine Buchart
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 – Tues. 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Jen – Limited office hours this week. Please contact Jen on her cell for immediate office concerns or to schedule an appointment, otherwise please email or leave a voicemail as she will be checking messages daily.

This Week Events:

Today –	*24th Sunday after Pentecost*
	Blessing of Hunters
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
	10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
	Fellowship Hall in Use
Tuesday –	Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom
Wednesday –	Veterans Day
	Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom
Sunday –	*25th Sunday after Pentecost*
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
	10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
	Fellowship Hall in Use

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 Buchart, Doug Bush, Bill Davis, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Dwight and Bethany Kensinger and their newborn son, Rachel Kensinger, Kristen Malloy, Pat Mellot, John Murphy, Ellie Post, 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.**

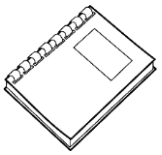
Away at School: Mace Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

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



Prayers of Christian sympathy and comfort are requested for the family and friends of Randy McGraw who passed away Wednesday November 4, 2026.

2026 Parish Directory / 2025 Annual Report



Copies of the 2026 Parish Directory / 2025 Annual Report are now available at the Usher Station. There is a copy of the Parish Directory at the Usher Station with a red pen attached to mark any needed corrections/updates that you find. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the Directory current. If you need a copy of the Parish Directory/Annual Report mailed or delivered to you, please contact the church office.

Community Thanksgiving Meal

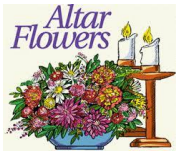


In November we begin to prepare for the Holiday Season by giving thanks for our many blessings.

St. Matthew will be assisting the Church of God by providing desserts for the Thanksgiving Meal. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. This meal will be November 9, at 5:00 p.m., and all are welcome to share a delicious home cooked turkey meal. Social Ministry Committee will be taking a turkey meal to our homebound.

If you are making a dessert, you can take it directly to the Church of God or we will be picking up any desserts that were dropped off at St. Matthew by 3 pm that Monday. Thank you in advance for your generous donation that supports our community.

Altar Flowers



The 2027 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Cost is $40.00 with checks made payable to St. Matthew Flower Fund. Questions regarding Altar Flowers can be directed to either Elaine Smith or Mary Nelson.



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 - 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.

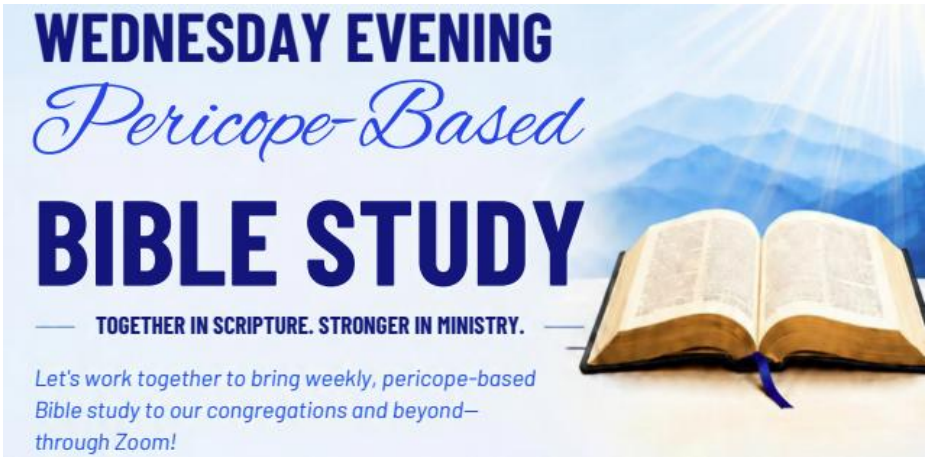
Thank you, members, for your donations for the food pantry!

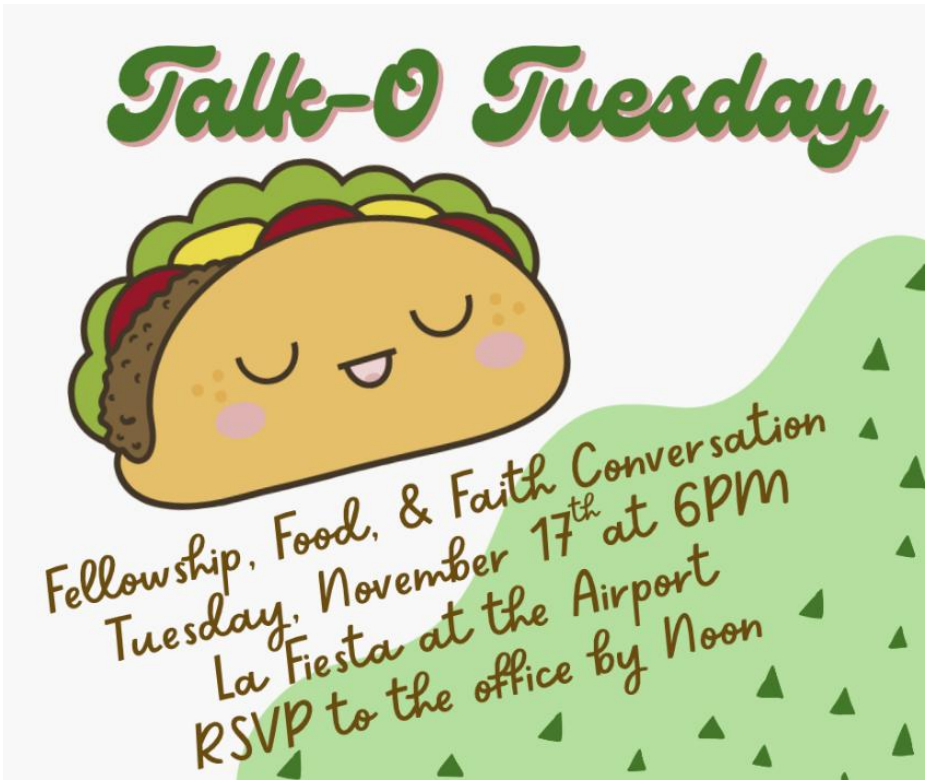
Linda Smith

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 will 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.






Join us
After Worship
on November 22nd
for
PIE
PRACTICE
2026
Trying out a new recipe for Thanksgiving?
Test your practice pie here first.
Not a baker?
Bring your appetite &
sense of adventure.
Light Lunch & Drinks Also Provided


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

Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

How has God gifted YOU with skills & passion for our shared ministry? We want to know!

Please complete the Allegheny Synod's Life Together Survey to help Bishop Kevin and his staff connect members of our synod with each other and the committees and teams working to spread God's love & light in the world. Access the survey with this QR code or on the Synod website. Contact your church office or the synod office for a paper copy.

Scan me with your phone camera!

***OPENING HYMN** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* *ELW #436*

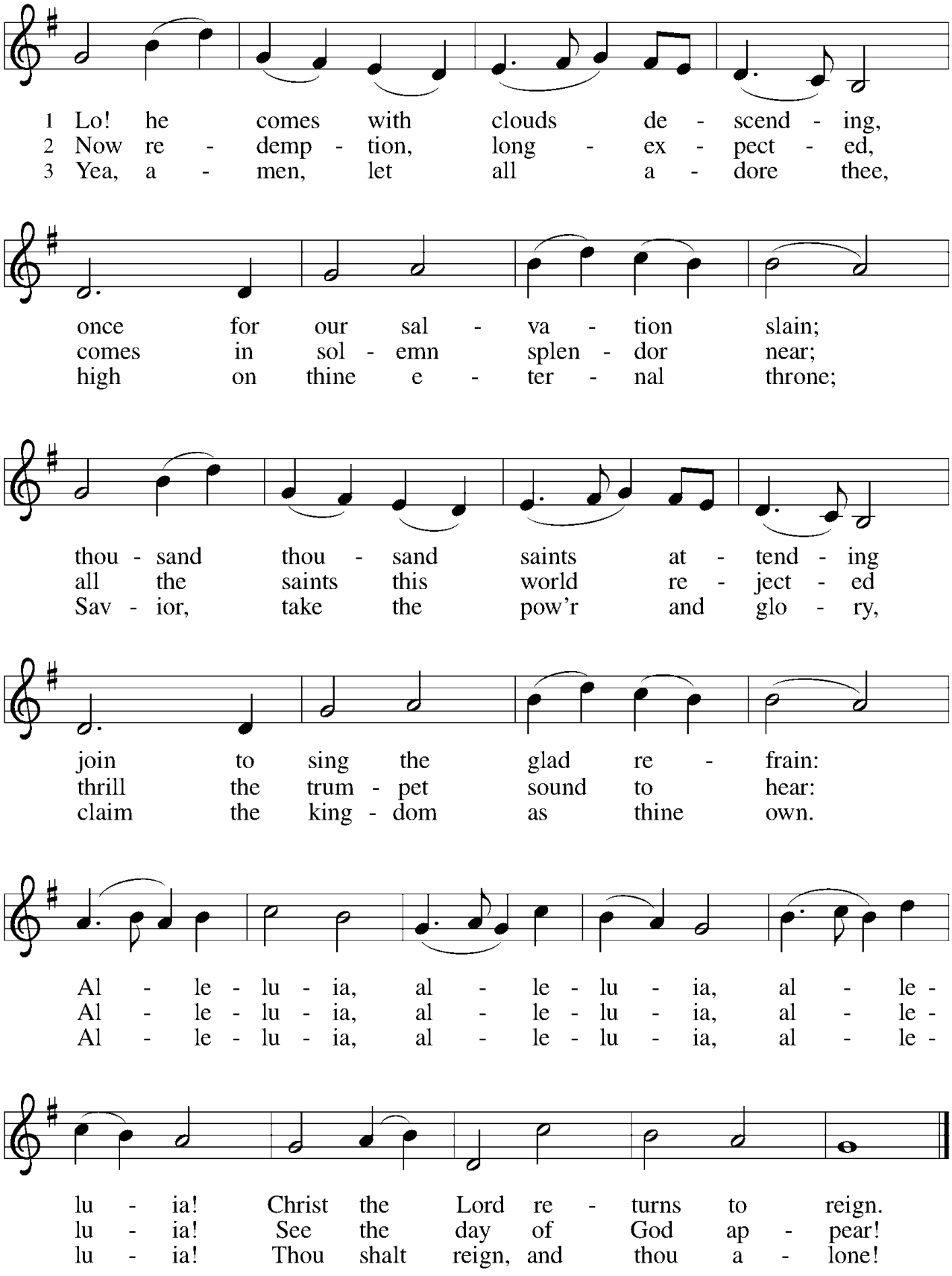


***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* *ACS #949*



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

COMMUNION HYMN *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* *ELW* # 435



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

***SENDING SONG** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* *ELW # 244*



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune