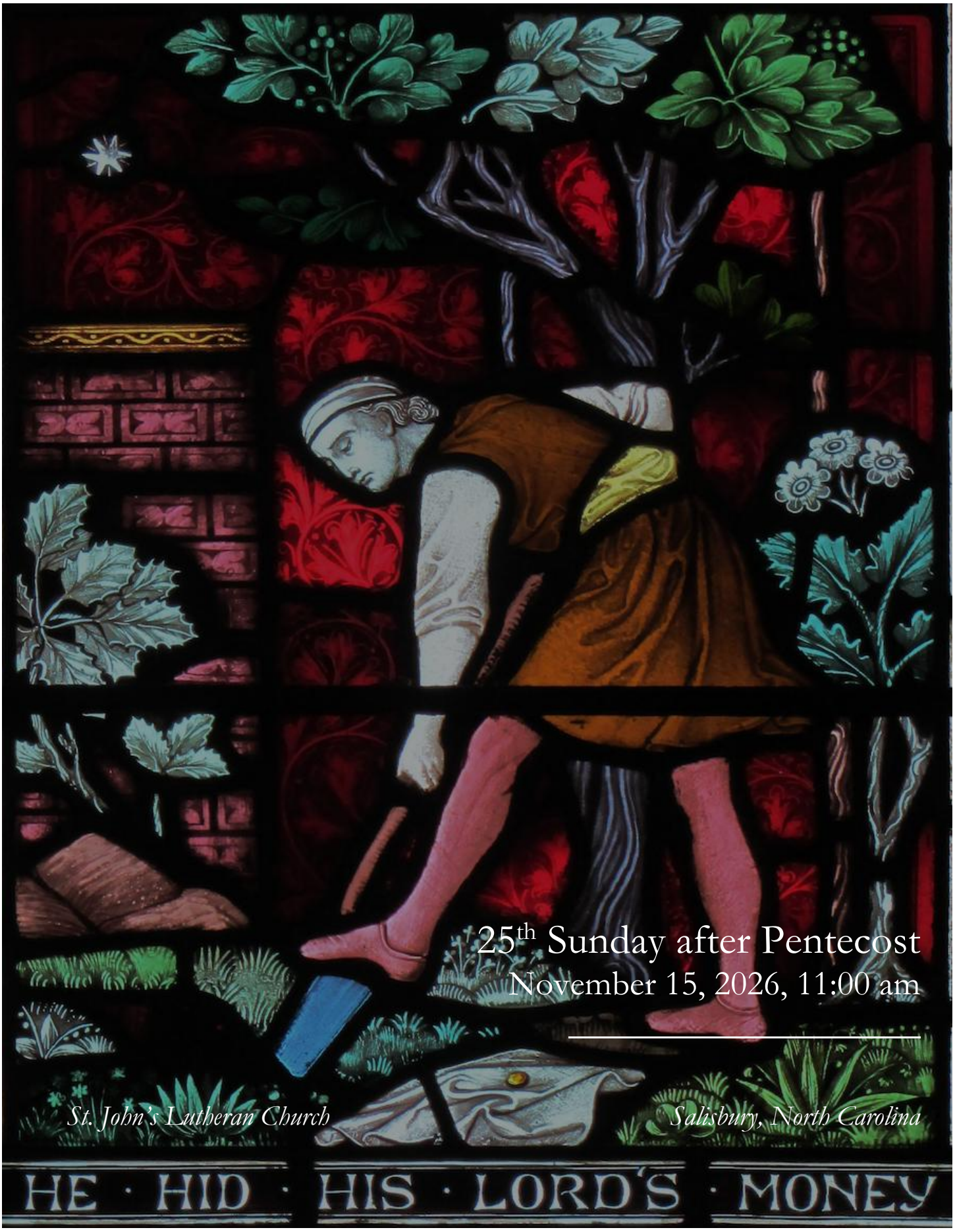


25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026, 11:00 am

St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

Title: He Did His Lord's Money (1860-1900). Artist: Unkown. Location: Church of St. St. Edward, King and Martyy, United Kingdom.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad God has brought you here!

Wednesday Evening Vesper Service—Nov. 18 at 6 pm in the Chapel—Join us after our Wednesday night meal for an evening worship service.

Confirmation Sunday - Unity Service is Nov. 22 at 10 am – We will worship together in **ONE service** in the sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate an important milestone in the lives of our confirmands.

Hanging of the Greens - **Nov. 22 from 2-5 pm in the Sanctuary and Nov. 29 in the Faith Center, immediately following the 927 service.** We are inviting the congregation to participate in the "Hanging of the Greens." This event helps us begin decorating our church campus for Advent. Participants may want to bring work gloves to help fluff the tree! Evening help needed from 11/30-12/3. Contact Marian Schouweiler at mlhough17@gmail.com for details.

Christmas Traditions - Join us **Nov. 22, 5-7 pm**, at The Vista at Walnut Hill for our annual Christmas Traditions event. You'll enjoy Advent wreath making and more! Sign up by scanning the QR code below, via FaithLife or on our website.

Bibles & Brew – Men's Ministry – **Nov. 24 at 6 pm.** East Coast Wings, 211 Faith Rd., Salisbury, NC.

Thanksgiving Day Worship—Online only—Nov. 26 at 9 am. We welcome you to join our annual Thanksgiving Day of Worship as it is presented online—a great way to begin your Day of Thanksgiving. Enjoy 30 minutes of song, prayer and inspiration. Available to view Thanksgiving morning by visiting our website, FaceBook or YouTube.

The Salisbury Symphony will present "*G.F. Handel's The Messiah*" – St. John's (Sanctuary) on Sun., Nov. 29 at 3 pm. Please visit the Salisbury Symphony's website below for more information and to purchase your ticket(s). https://salisburysymphony.org/shows/messiah/

Trick or Treat So Others May Eat – RHM Food Drive - Thank you for your overwhelming participation! St. John's collected a total of 80 grocery bags! The total weight was 1156 lbs. of food.

Altar Flowers – Given to the Glory of God
and in honor of my daughter, Julie Wade, on her birthday, by Tricia Holt.

Annual Meeting | December 6, 10:15 in the Faith Center

Members are encouraged to join us for a vote on the 2027 Budget
and elect **five** new Council Members

Council Nominees: Elizabeth Derrick, Cheryl Gunter, Ann Hatchett, Kristin May, Penny Moss, Gary Rhodes, Kathy Roberson, Gary Taylor, David Wilson and Gray Wilson

Youth Nominees: Mary Masters Goodman and William Charest

Benevolent Fund Trustee Nominee: Cindy Fink

EVENT SIGN-UPS AND MORE ARE NOW IN ONE LOCATION – By scanning the QR code here, it will give you instant access to our giving portals, digital connect cards, enter prayer requests and various event sign-ups. Try it now!

GATHERING

Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold.**
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.

PRELUDE **'Our Lord, Our God'** **by David Lantz**
Women's Ensemble

We rise and face the cross.
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

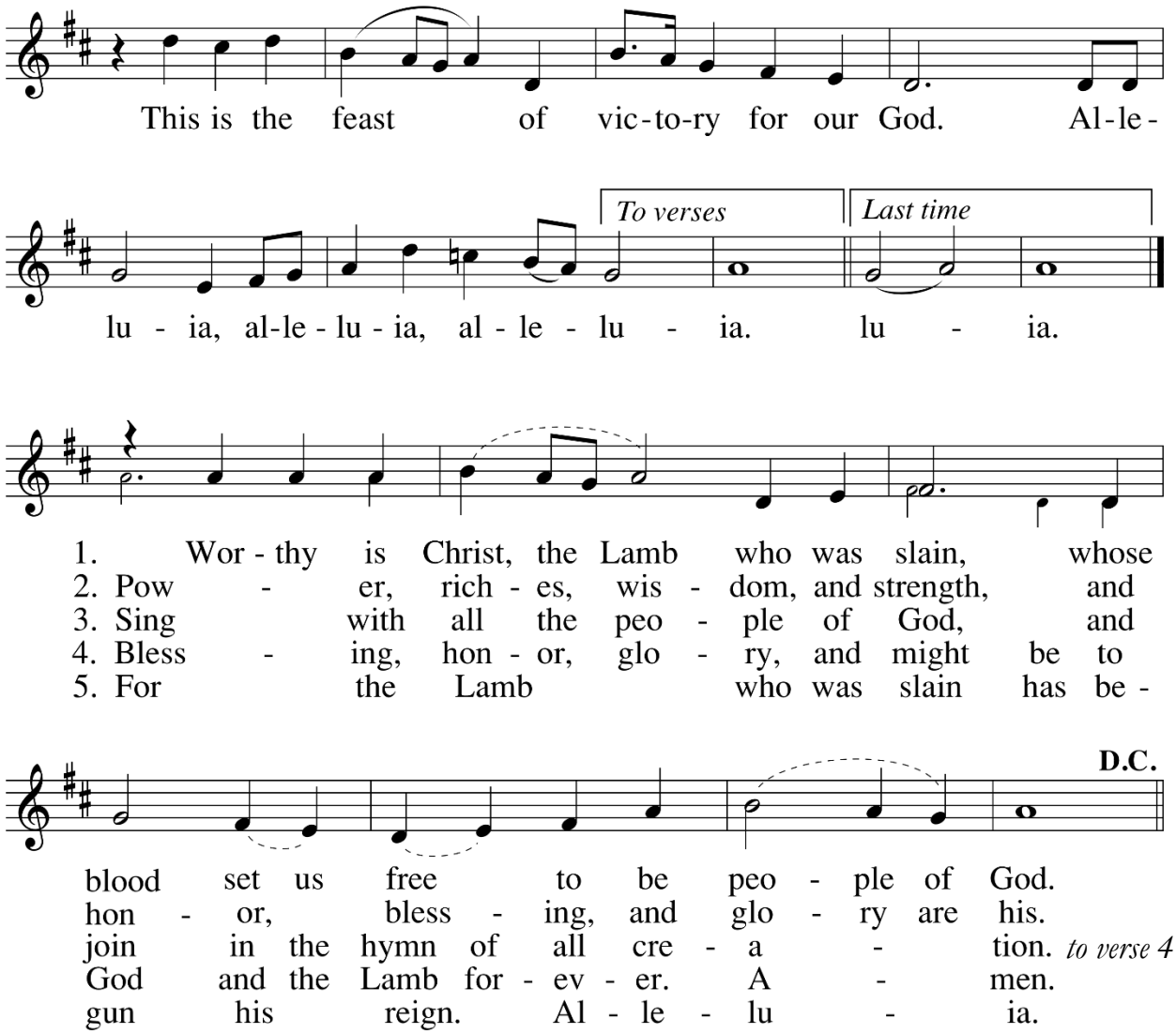
Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **'We Praise You, O God'** **ELW 870**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST



PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: 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 Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**.
Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

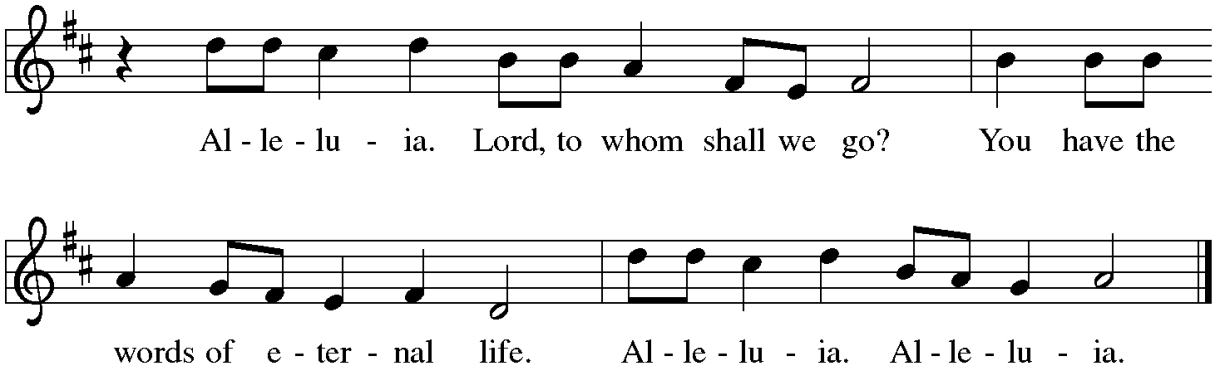
A reading from 1st Thessalonians, the 5th chapter.

1 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, brothers and sisters, 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:14-30**



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the 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. At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off 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, 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.' "

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

Be seated.
SERMON **Pastor James Demmel**

We rise.
HYMN OF THE DAY **'As Saints of Old'** **ELW 695**

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith: **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 AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Share the 'peace' of Christ with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Be seated.
OFFERING AND ANTHEM **'A Servant in Your Heavenly House' by Pepper Choplin**

I'd rather be a servant in your heavenly
than to be a king living anywhere else.

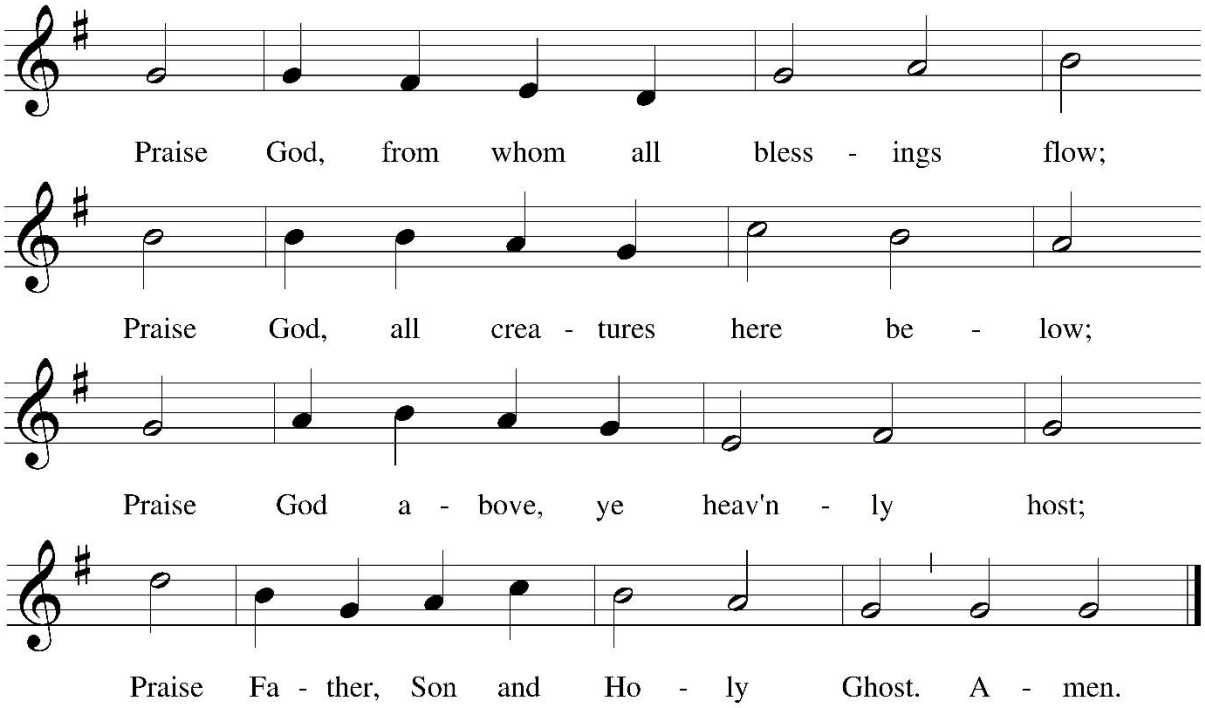
I'd rather spend one day in your heavenly house
Than a thousand days living anywhere else.
Now I offer myself to you.

All to you I freely offer, all to you I freely give.
I'll forever love and trust you, in your presence freely give.

Lord, I offer all back to you as thanks for all you give **me.**
For all I give, I lived my life to you.

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



We 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. **Amen.**

MEAL

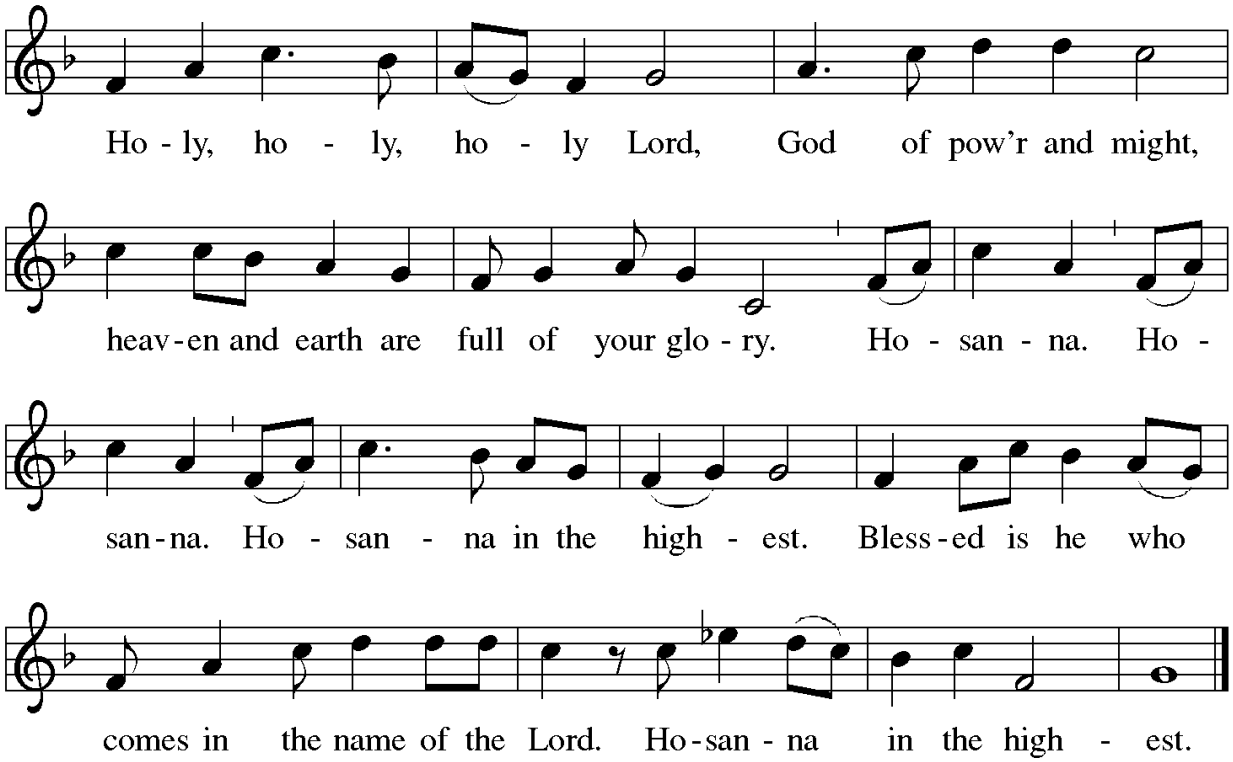
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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:



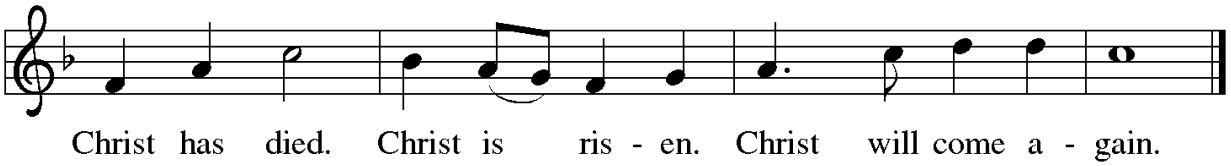
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

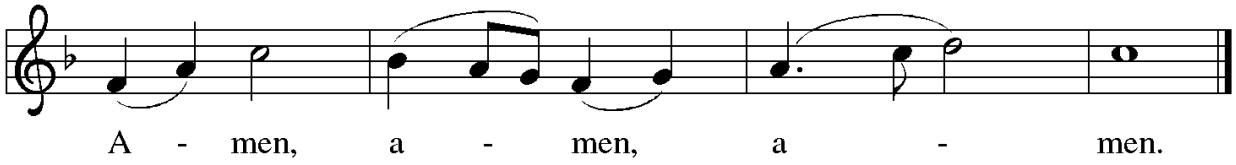
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

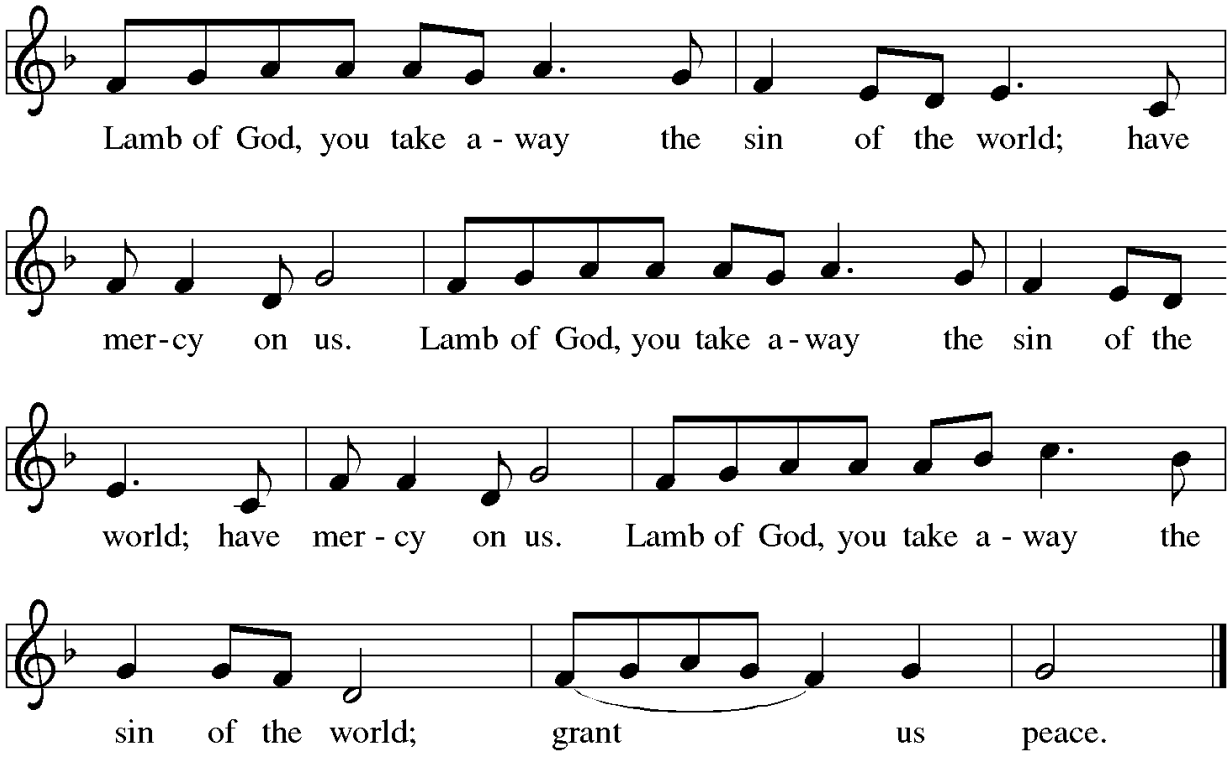
Come, Christ invites you to this table.
Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at the altar. Please follow the usher's guidance. At the altar, bread is served (gluten-free by request), followed by wine (grape juice by request). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.

COMMUNION HYMN



COMMUNION SONG **'There is a Balm in Gilead'** **Lea Anne Thomas**
arr. by Lynette Maynard

COMMUNION HYMN **'For the Fruits of All Creation'** **ELW 679**

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

We 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. **Amen.**

SENDING

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN **'O God, Our Help in Ages Past'** **ELW 632**

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader……Corinne Mauldin
Preacher……..Pastor James Demmel
Presider……Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes…..Wyatt Jarrett and Waylen Jarrett
Crucifer……..Katie Ann Dangerfield
Banner Bearer……..Mary Masters Goodman

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