St. John's Lutheran Church
Covington, OH
Church Office (937) 473-2170
Pastor's Cell (865) 363-9676
25th Sunday after Pentecost
SERVICE OF THE WORD
November 15, 2026

+ GATHERING+

PRELUDE & PREPARE FOR WORSHIP
As we listen to the prelude music, we are invited to focus our attention on God and God's kingdom, praying silently or engaging in quiet meditation.

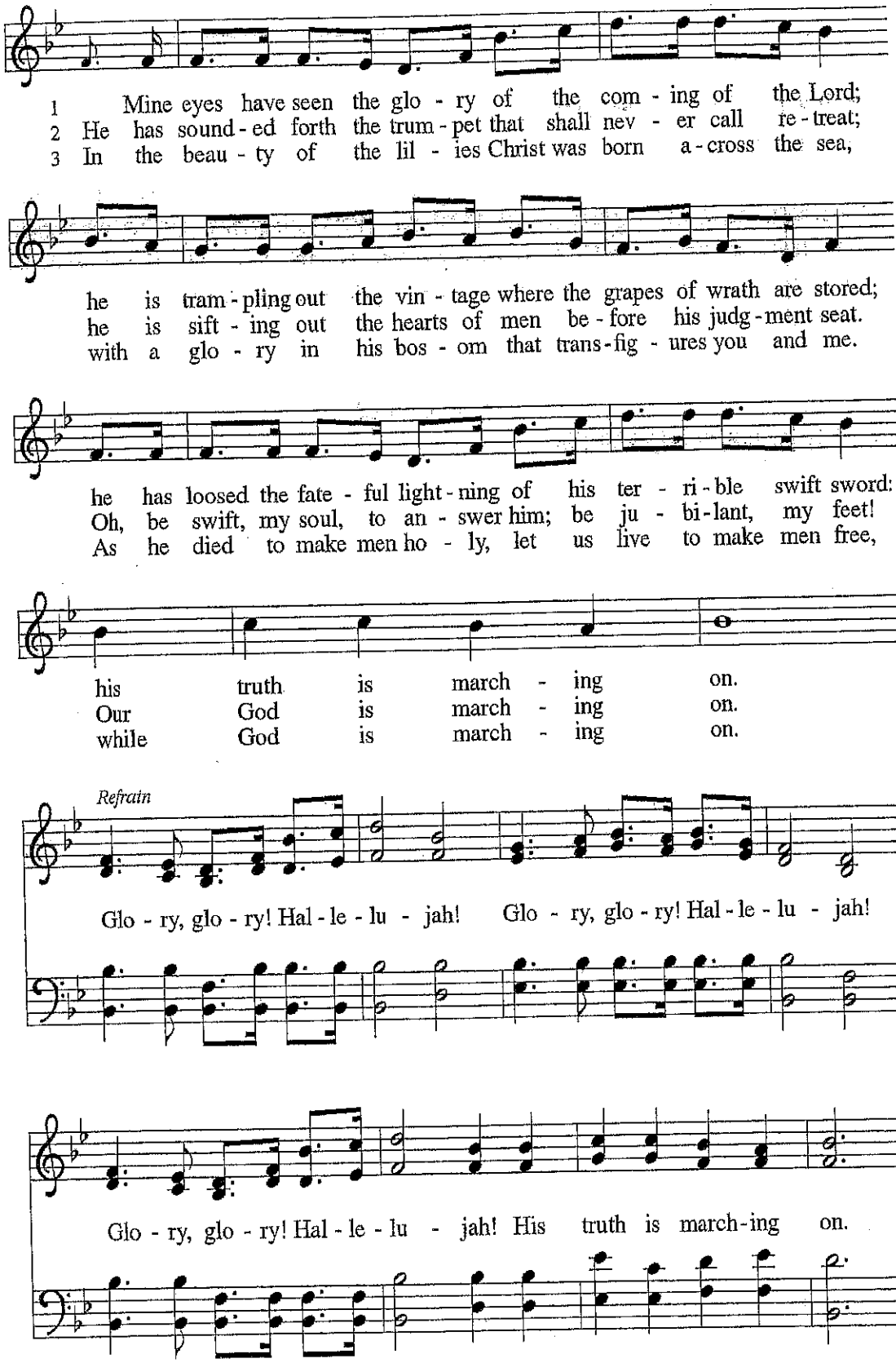
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
(*Stand as Able)

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign 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

890 red book

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us 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.

+ WORD+

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

The Psalm may be read responsively, with the congregation reading the bolded lines.

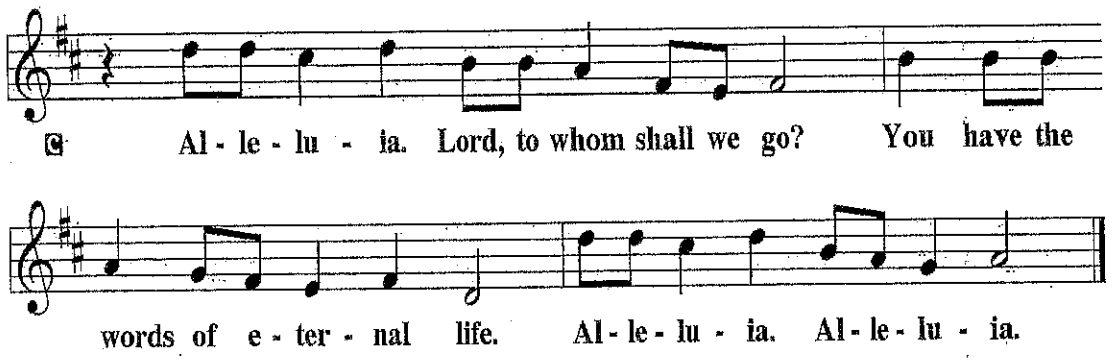
1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
] 12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND LESSON I Thessalonians 5:1-11

[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.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

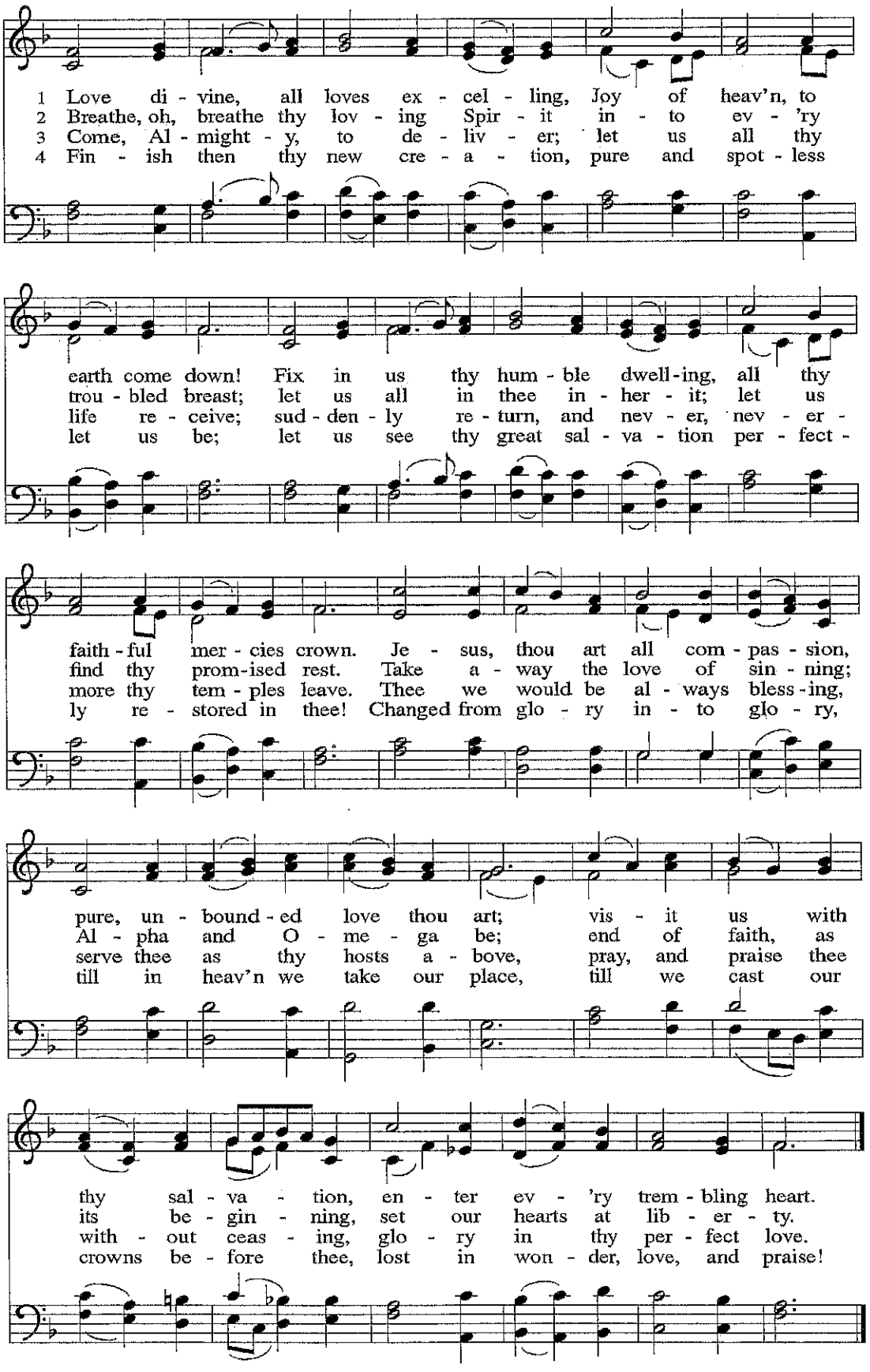
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents 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.**

SERMON "Anticipating Jesus Wherever We Are"
Matthew 25:14-30

*HYMN OF THE DAY 674 red book

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

***APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through Our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, 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 OF INTERCESSION

Here we lift up prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need. The congregation may respond with the bolded lines.

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

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

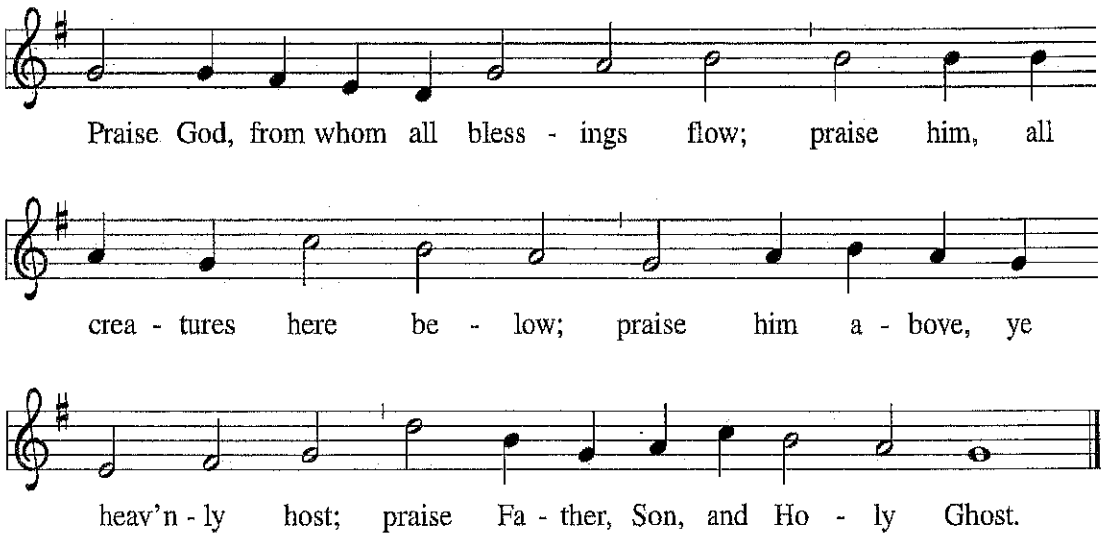
***SHARING OF THE PEACE**
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(Greet one another saying, "Peace be with you.")

SPECIAL MUSIC
"I Just Feel Like Something Good Is About To Happen"
Gaither

+ THANKSGIVING+

***OFFERTORY** **884 red book**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

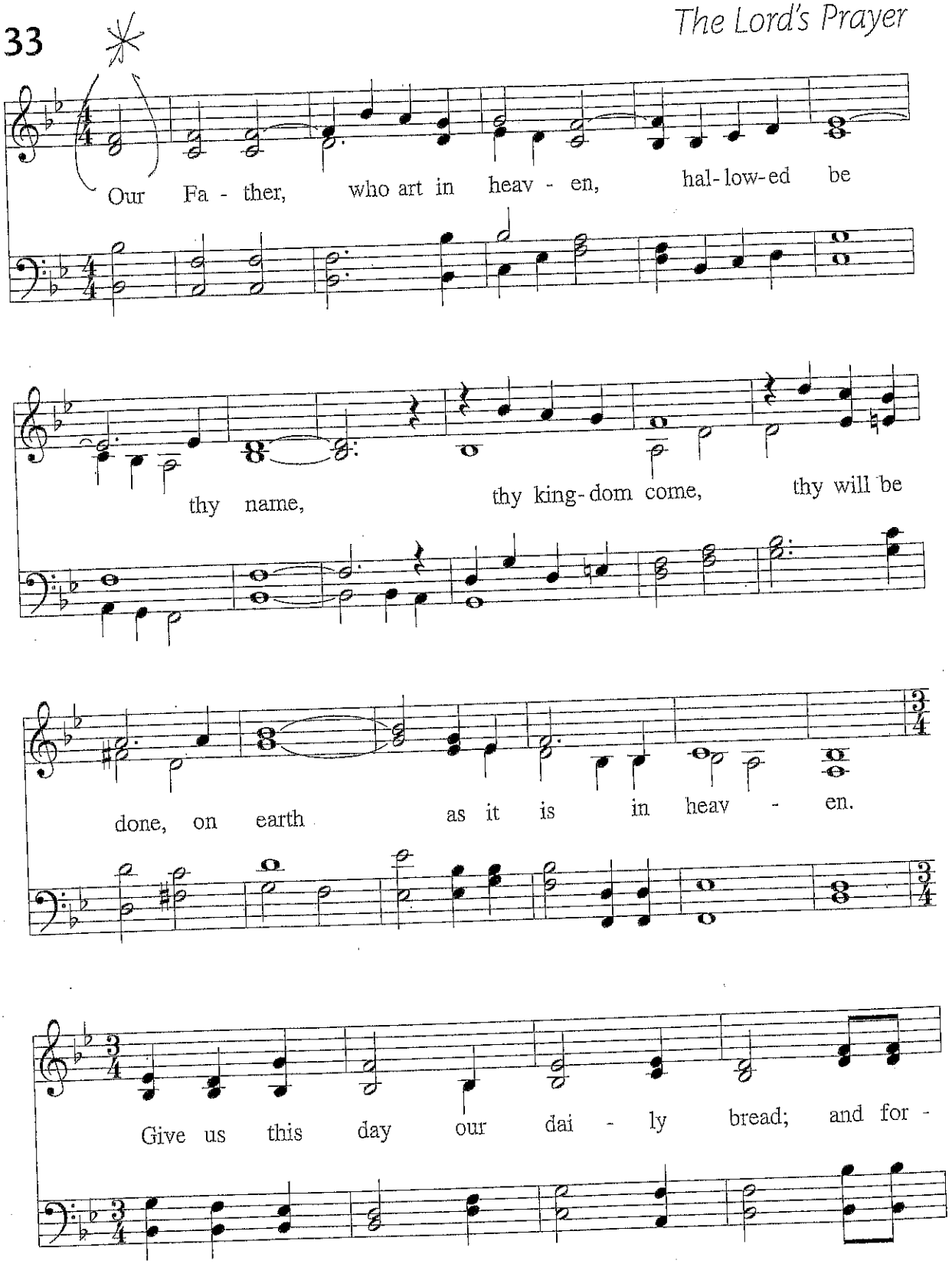
***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**
Let us pray.
O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

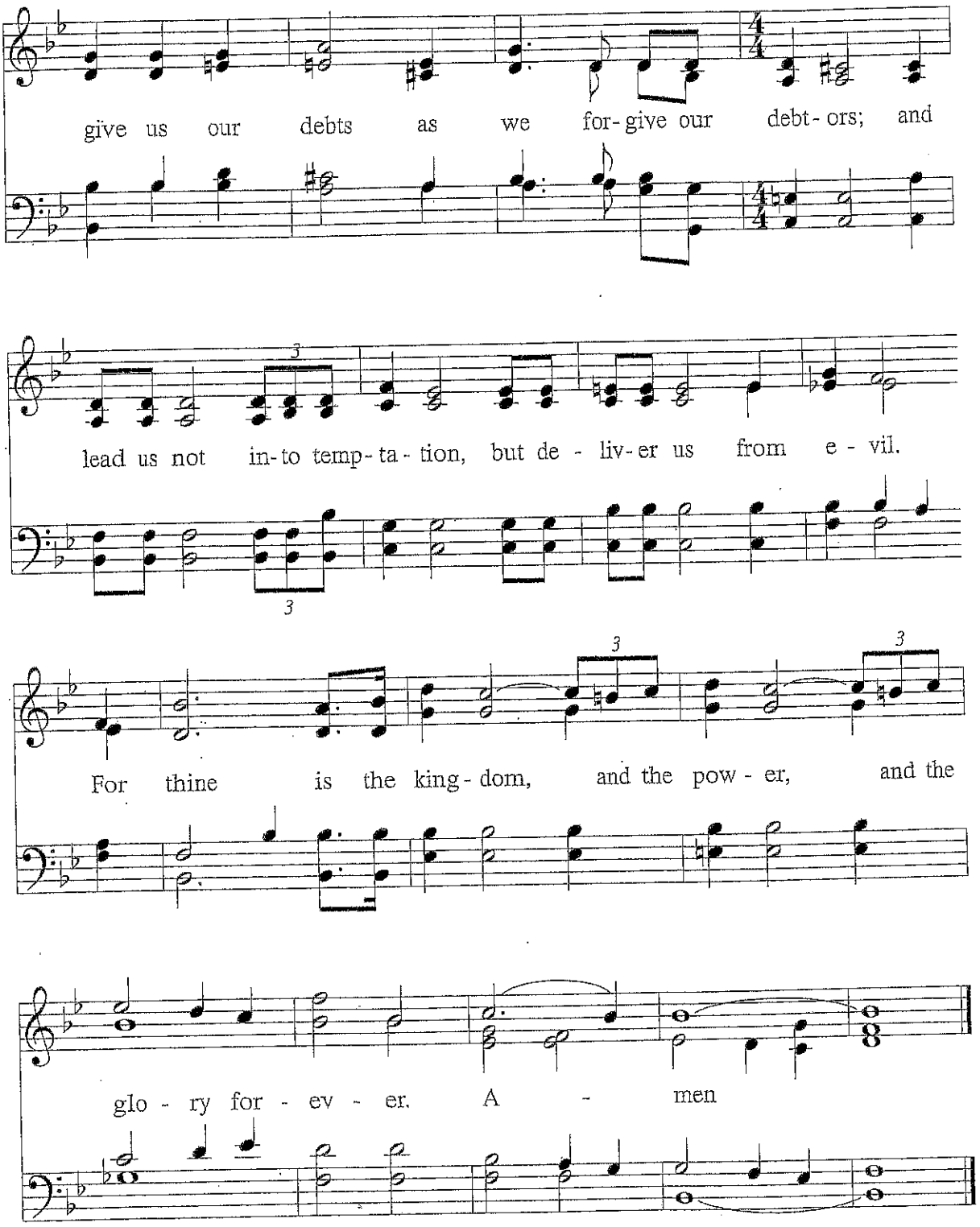
***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, Who Art in Heaven

The Lord's Prayer

33




give us our debts as we for-give our debt-ors; and
lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de - liv-er us from e - vil.
For thine is the king-dom, and the pow - er, and the
glo - ry for - ev - er. A - men

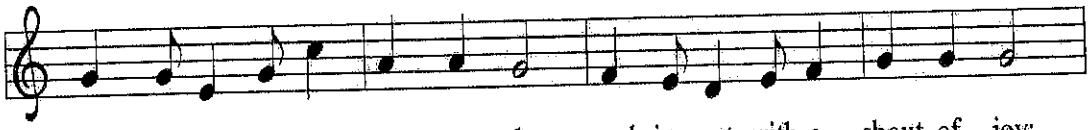
+ SENDING+

***BLESSING**

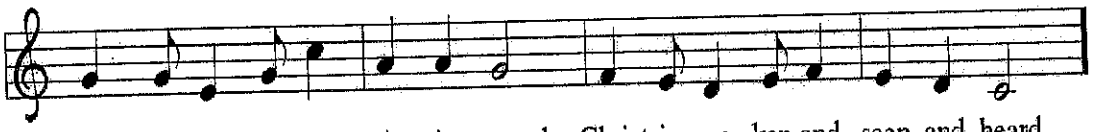
The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG** **674 red book**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

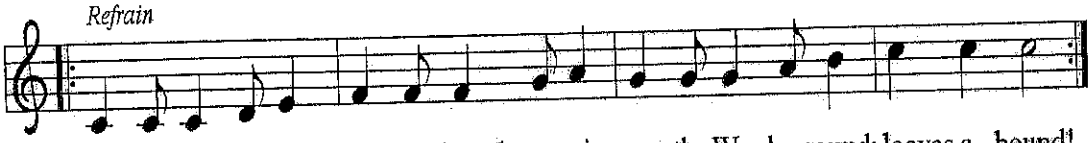


1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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ORGAN MEDITATION

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Encourage one another
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Financial Stewardship Gifts

Weekly Needs	Rec'd 11/15	YTD Rec'd
$4,599.00 (Current)	$2,013.40	$147,666.00
$ 245.00 (Benev.)	$ 112.60	$ 7,863.00

Last Sunday Attendance: Worship Service: 51

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS/ ACTIVITIES THIS COMING WEEK:

Today	-	9:00 a.m. Adult Ed (Lectionary Based)
		9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
		10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday	-	6:00 p.m. Church Council
Sunday	-	9:00 a.m. Adult Ed (Lectionary Based)
		9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
		10:00 a.m. Worship Service
		11:00 a.m. Decorate Church for Christmas
		5:30-7:30 p.m. Skating Party

Ministers serving in the worship service today:

Ministers	The baptized of St. John's
Pastor	Pastor Rachel Patterson
Organist	Kristin Gephart
Choir Director	Norma Colby
Ushers	Open
Altar Guild	Jackie Kiehl & Holly Turner
Assisting Minister	Mindy Gearhardt
Lector	Karen Gearhardt
Nursery	Brooks & Briana King
Tellers	Betty Hollopeter & Kaitlyn Flory

Please remember that you will serve at next Sunday's 10:00 a.m. Worship:
Assisting Minister- David Larson, **Lector-** Darla Brumfield, **Nursery-** Kate Shaffer, **Ushers-** Larsons, **Altar Guild-** Jackie Kiehl & Holly Turner, **Tellers-**Betty Hollopeter & Kaitlyn Flory.

Floral Offering
The Eberenz Fund in honor of Charles' beloved church.
CD recordings of this service are available.