Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 9

November 8, 2026
10:00 am

**Please stand as you are willing and able.*
ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
ACS refers to All Creation Sings.

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
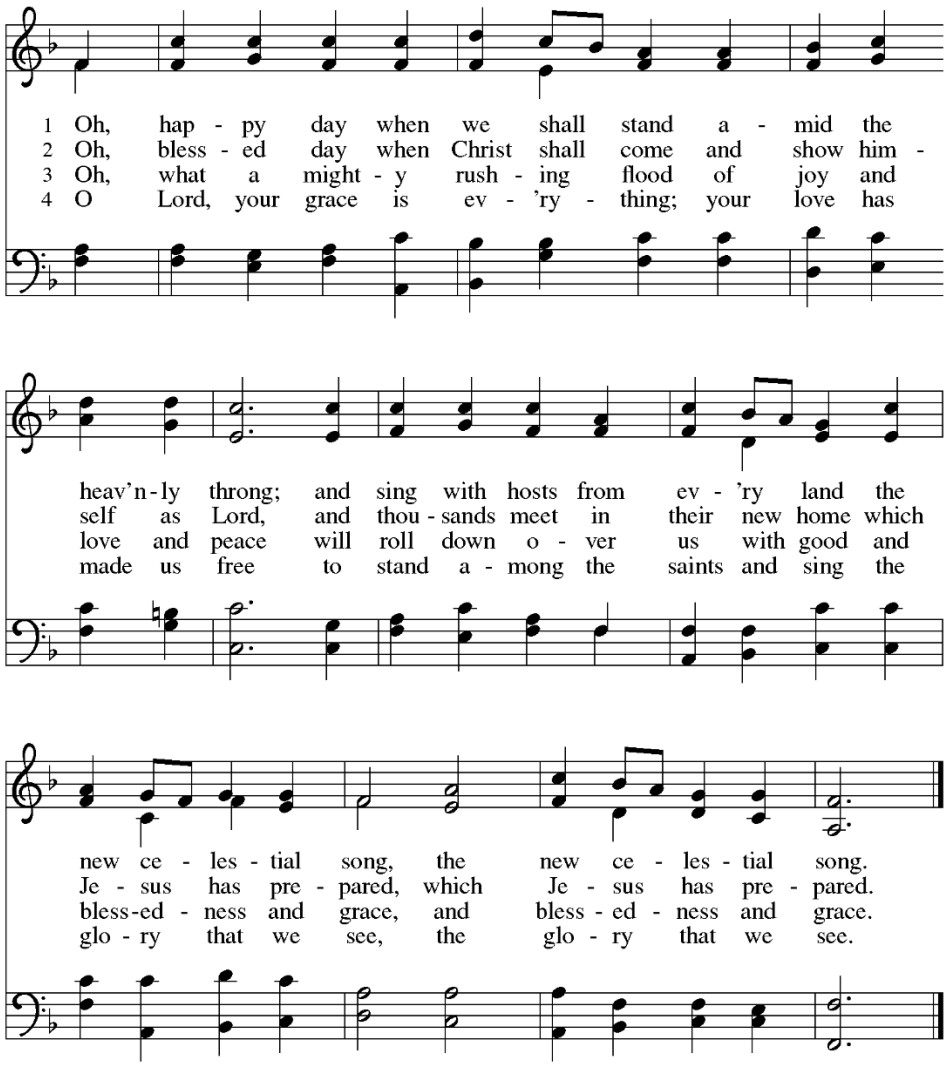
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.
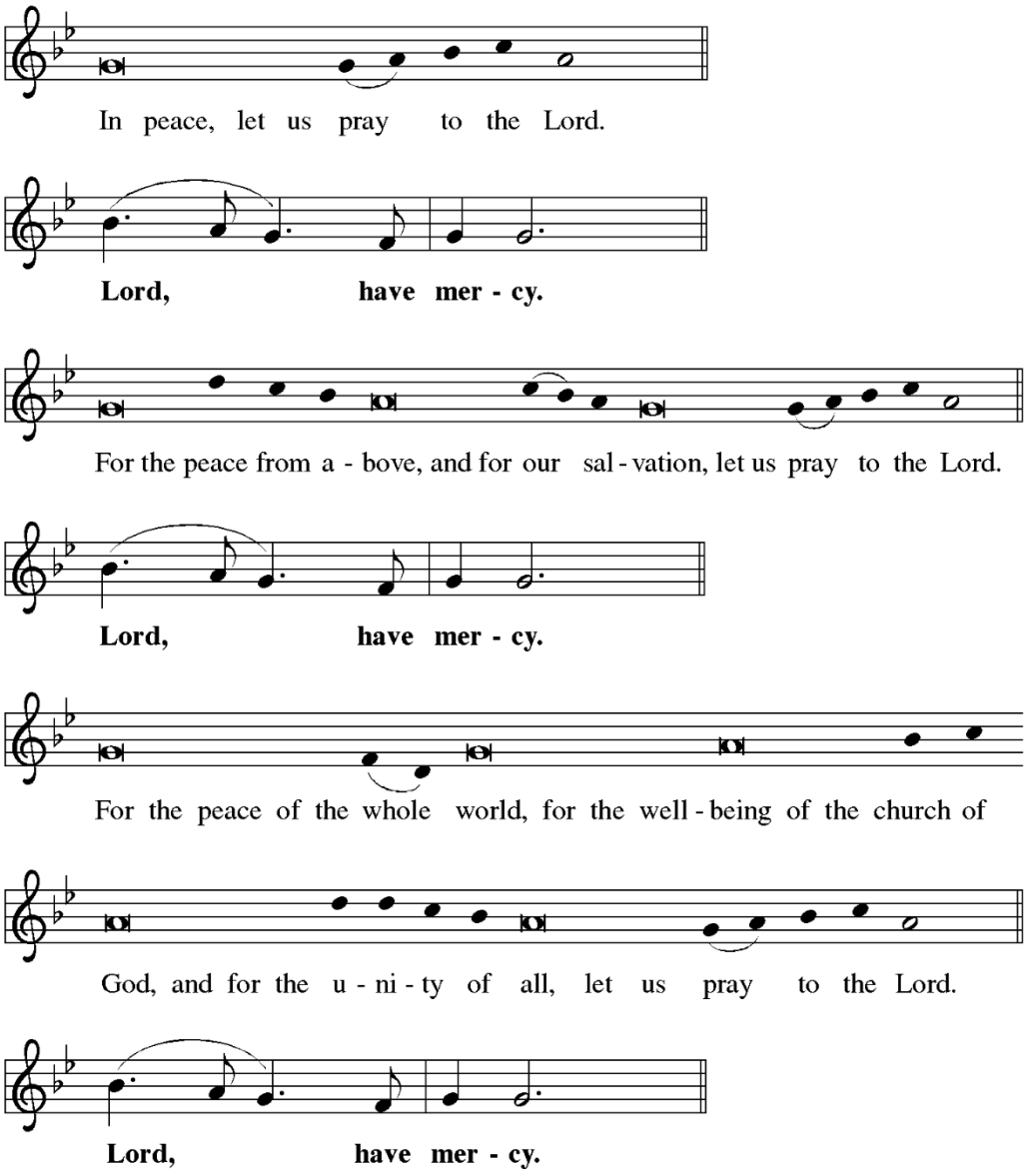
***GATHERING HYMN**Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand ELW 441

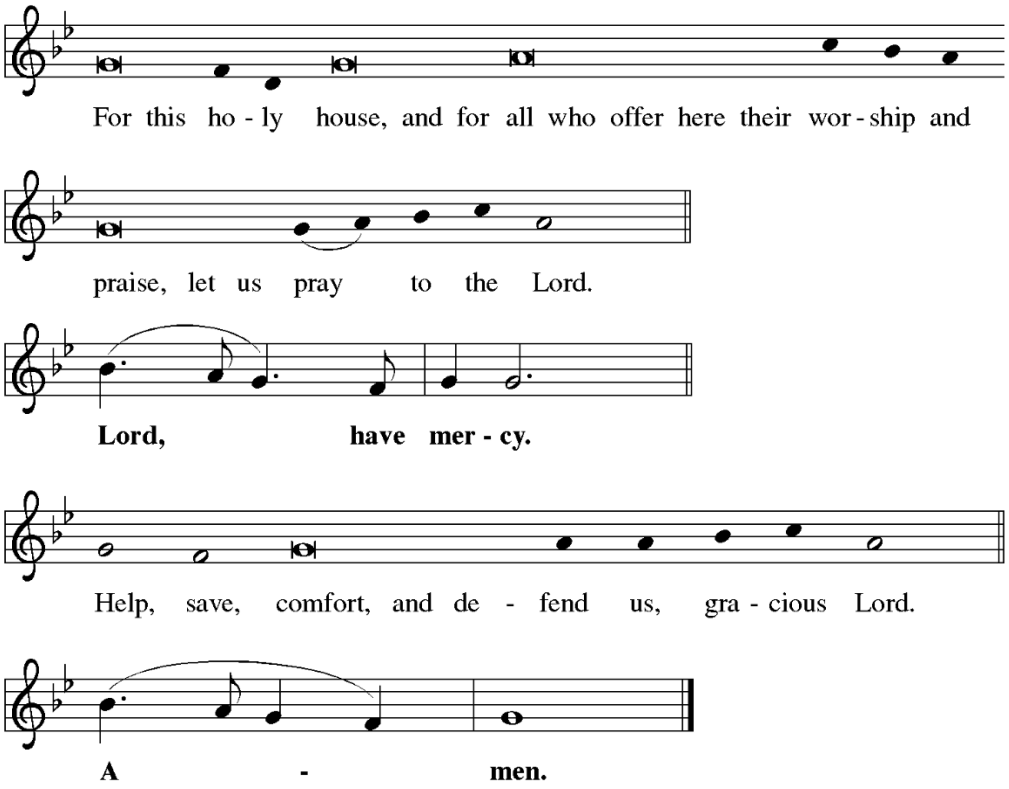


***GREETING**

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.

*KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANTHEM Keep Your Lamps! Arr Andre Thomas

WORD

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

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24
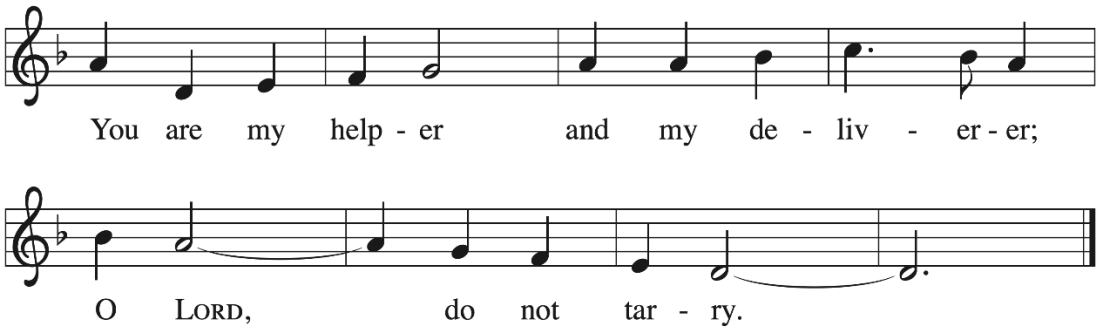
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
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.
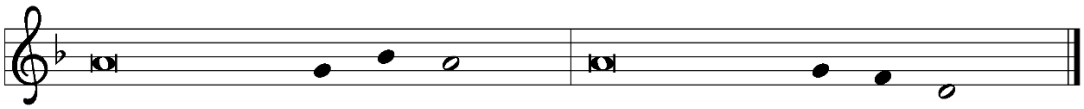
The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.
The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 70

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver 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. R
[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 quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

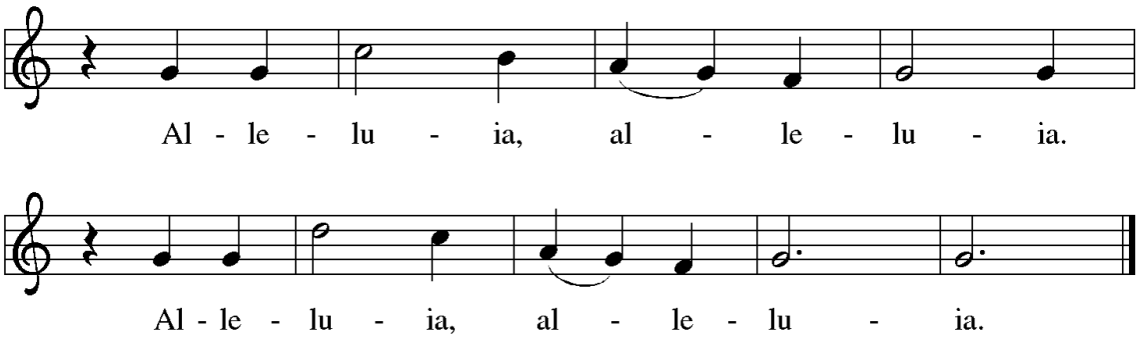
[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died
and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this
we declare 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.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

Keep awake | and be ready,
for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

***GOSPEL** Matthew 25:1-13

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to St. 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."
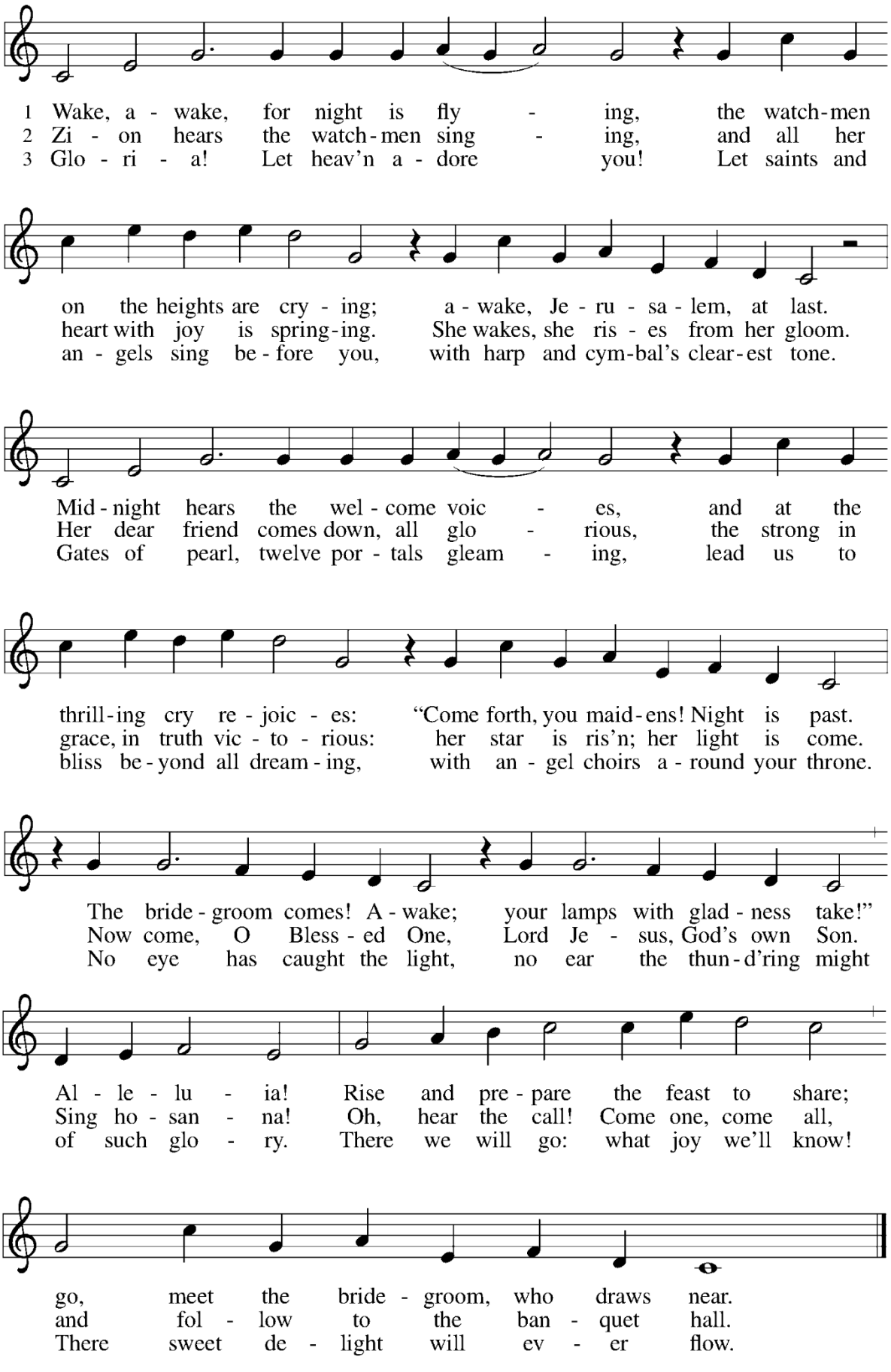
The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION The Rev. Angela Freeman

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying ELW 436



***APOSTLE'S CREED** pg. 105

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 PEOPLE**

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

WA: 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,
hear our prayer.

WA: 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,
hear our prayer.

WA: 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 (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

WA: 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. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

WA: 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,
hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: 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,
hear our prayer.

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

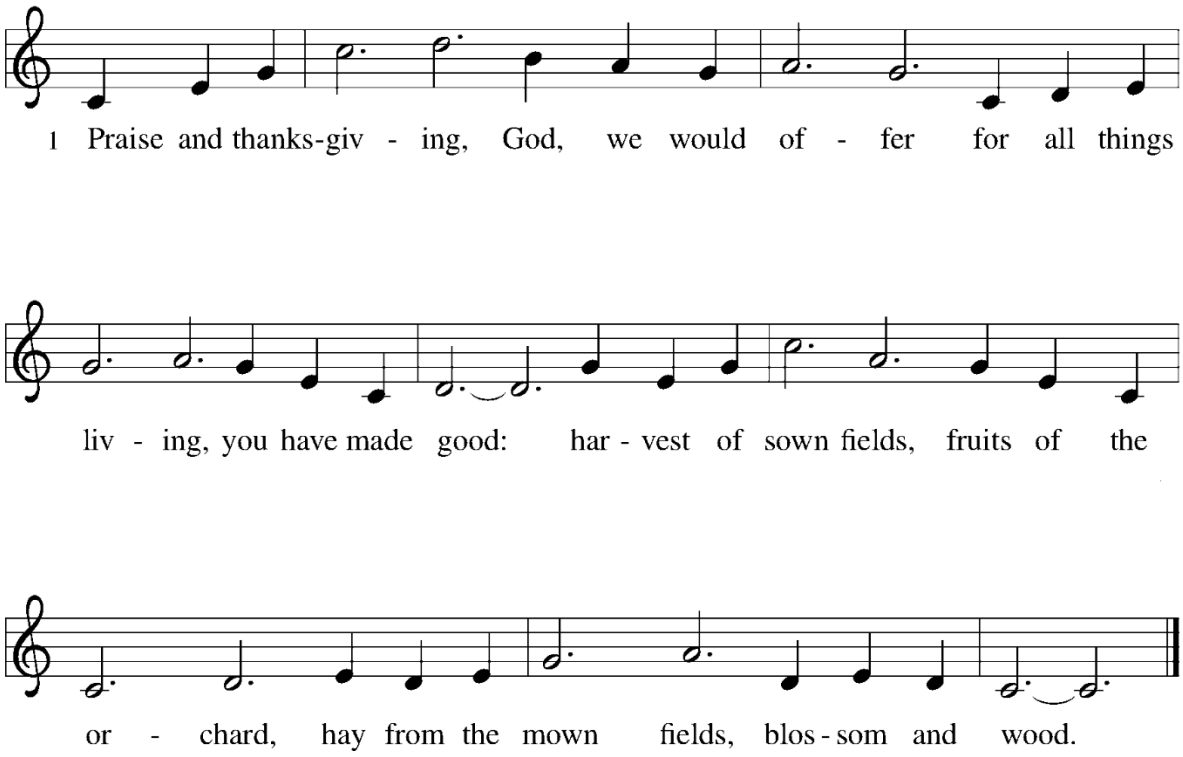
***PEACE**
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTARY Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand (Lobt Gott, ihr Christen)/D. Buxtehude

OFFERTORY HYMN Praise and Thanksgiving ELW 689
Stanza 1

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

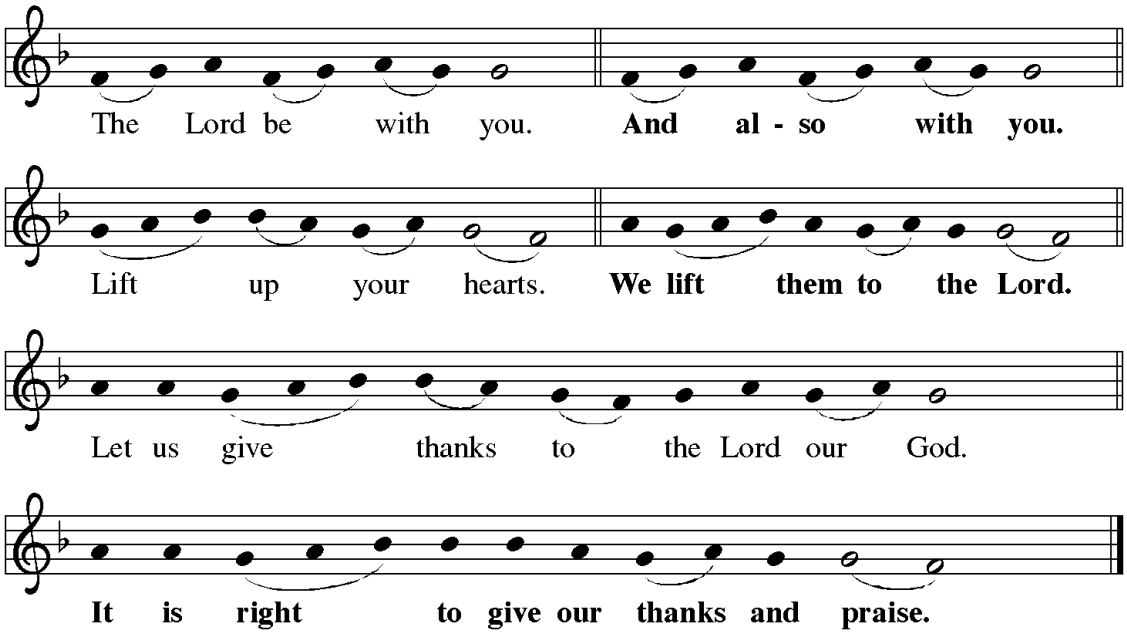


***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.
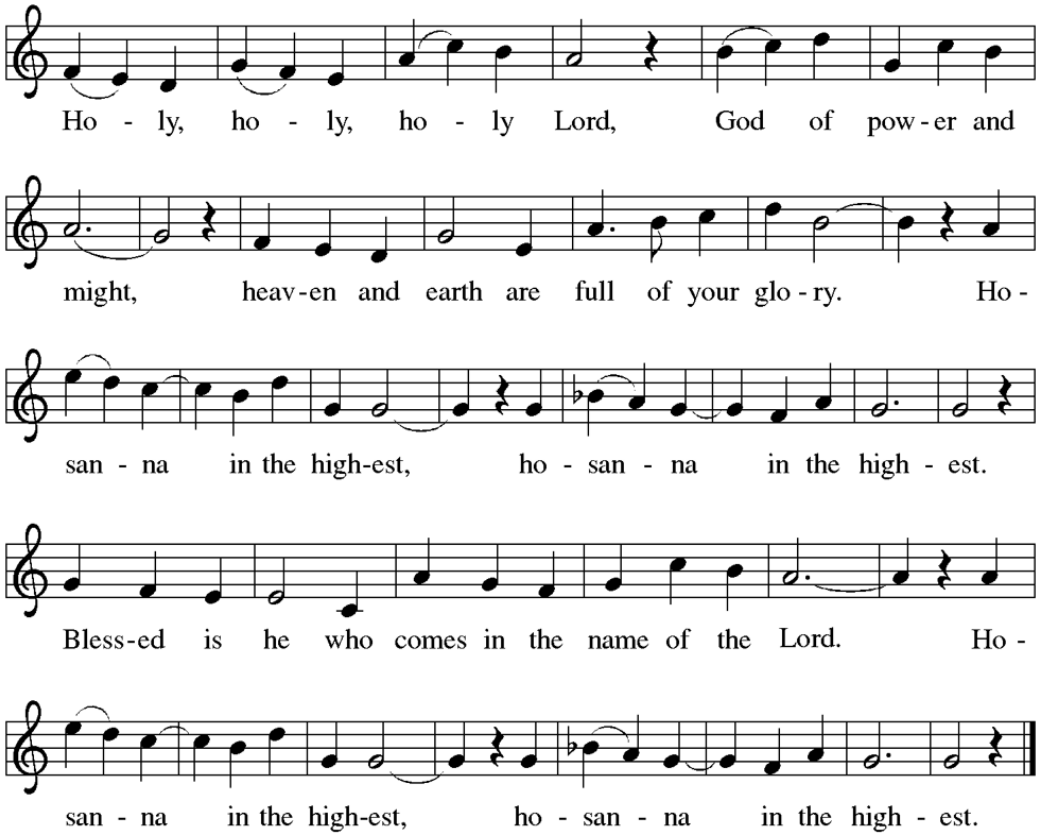


***PREFACE**

The presiding minister continues.

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:

*HOLY



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.
Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Pray the version of the Lord's Prayer most comfortable to you and in the language of your heart.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

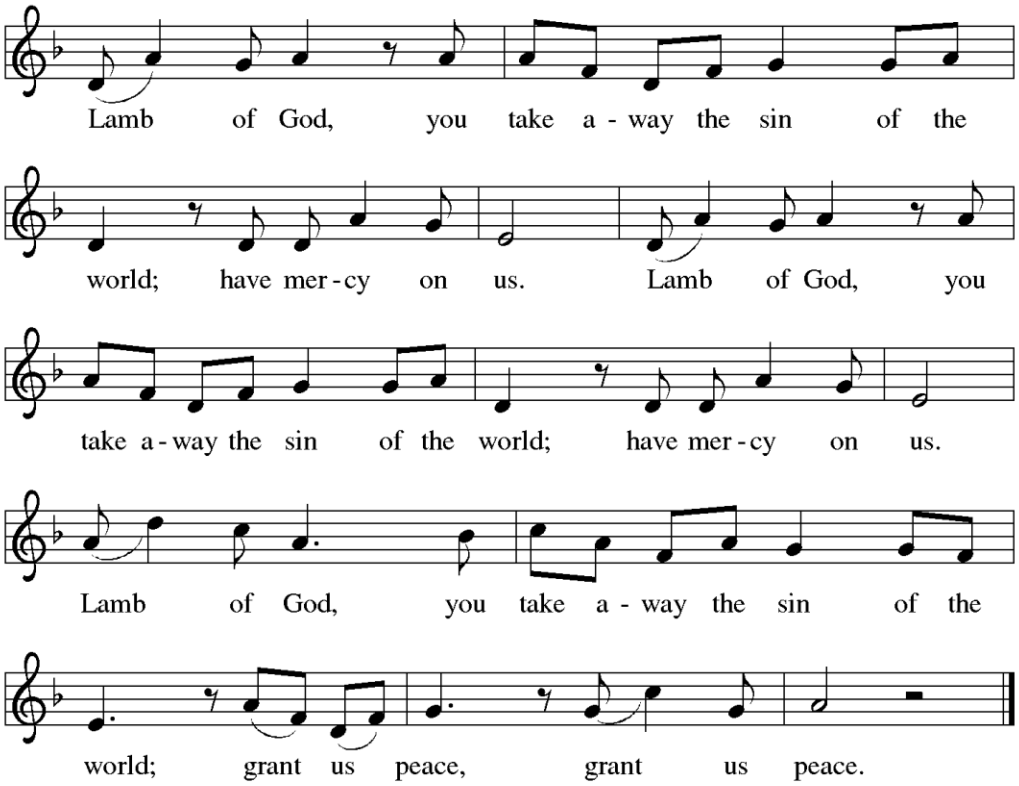
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC Soul Adorn yourself with Gladness ELW 488
It is Well with My Soul ELW 785
Let Justice Flow like Streams ELW 717

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

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

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

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

***SENDING HYMN** Blessed Assurance ELW 638

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying Arr. Robert Benson

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Angela Freeman	Senior Pastor
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Deb Zudell-Dickey	Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**; Psalm: **Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12;** Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;** Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30.

BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org
(440) 871-2276
info@bethesdaonthebay.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by Don & Sandy Sittler in honor of their parents Loring & Dorothy Sittler and Joe & Jean Koler.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

CONNECT CARD – There are connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office at info@bethesdaonthebay.org. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays at 10am, not meeting November 18
Come and share in fellowship and bible study centered around the up-coming Sunday scripture lessons. No expertise is needed and you can come when you're able. While the library is under renovation, Bible study will be held in the lounge. Come and share in the fellowship.

BETHESDA CHANCEL CHOIR
Bethesda's choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 pm with a shorter rehearsal and warm-up before worship on Sundays around 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome! Speak with Eric Richardson with questions.

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS
The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am. They quilt and donate their quilts to charitable groups that need them, with the support of Thrivent Financial. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

CLASS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS
November 21 and December 19
Bethesda is excited to continue our special class for children ages two through five along with their parents. We meet one Saturday a month from 10:00 to 11:00 am. If you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Diana Wolfe or the church office. Future dates are to be determined by group consensus.

COUNTER NEEDED
We are in need of a counter for once a month (the last Sunday of the month). Duties include staying after worship and adding cash and checks and preparing a deposit. You will be partnered with an experienced counter. Please contact Jeff Darkow if you are interested (jbdarkow@gmail.com).

GET TO KNOW YOUR HYMNAL
Today November 8
After worship - Fellowship Hall
The "red book in the pew pocket in front of you" when you are sitting in the pews at Bethesda on the Bay is a wealth of information and wonderful tools for personal faith and prayer support.

Stick around after worship on Sunday, November 8th to have a little fun with worship and music getting to know your hymnal better. This will be a fun and light hearted time to get to know our traditions better!

2027 BUDGETING
Next year's budgeting process has started. If you are responsible for a budgeting area, please provide your budget information to Bill Zeidler by November 30. Contact the office with questions.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
Nurse Debbie Roski will do blood pressure checks after worship on November 15!

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP
Sunday, November 22
6:30 Worship, *pie fellowship following*
Bethesda is blessed to host the Community Thanksgiving Worship with members of the Bay Ecumenical Congregations and Good Soil Lutheran in Rocky River sharing in the evening. Community choir will rehearse at 6:00pm for an anthem to sing during worship. Everyone is welcome to sing or simply come to worship! Together, let us give thanks to God for the many blessings!

PIE FELLOWSHIP
ATTENTION BAKERS (and pie buyers)
Bethesda could use your help to provide yummy pies for November 22nd after the Thankgiving worship. If you are able to bake or purchase a pie, set up or clean up, please sign up in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Barb Semroc. Thank you for helping provide for a lovely fellowship evening!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
The next Confirmation class is Thursday, November 5th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and as people in the weeks ahead. For more information, contact Pastor Angela.

DECORATING BETHESDA FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
This year we're decorating the church on Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 am. All are invited! "Many hands make light work." We need helpers to hand wreaths & garland, fluff bows, decorate trees with ornaments, hang sconces, and place the window candles and pine boughs. Please come and help beautify the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Advent & Christmas seasons.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AT ST. BARNABAS
Last month, our congregation donated a generous collection of soups and other items to the Community Cupboard and collected pet food items at the annual blessing of the animals. St. Barnabas is deeply grateful for our ongoing support, and we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving and St. Barnabas is requesting Thanksgiving dinner items such as stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams, instant mashed potatoes and turkey gravy. Donations will be gathered on Sunday, November 15th, the third Sunday of the month. Please consider adding a few of these items to your shopping list and bringing them to church that day. As always, contributions of any non-perishable food, hygiene products, or pet food are welcome, as are monetary donations. A collection bin will be available in the Narthex.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Our September offerings of $14,000 came in under budget and last September by $10,000, which was sizable.

Our year-to-date offerings are under budget by $27,000 and under last year by approximately $19,000. Our expenses are at budget, which is $19,000 over last year. This combined is a loss of $44,000 through September compared to budgeted loss of $17,000, and compares to a loss of $11,400 last year. We are still in a strong cash position, however we are under where we planned to be at this time.

We are looking to reinstitute a finance committee, which is a small group of members with relevant professional experience willing to review reports and attend quarterly meetings. If interested please contact me, Pastor or anyone on church council.

Bill Zeidler
Treasurer
treasurer@bethesdaonthebay.org/216-536-4830

DINNER CHURCH AT UPCAM
November 15 – 6:00 pm
Bethesda is heading back to UPCaM on November 15 to bring dinner and join in worship again! We will be providing a Taco Bar, so we will need lots of donations to make a great taco dinner. UPCaM (United Protestant Campus Ministry), serves students from Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, and Cuyahoga Community College, and has been a valued ministry partner of Bethesda for years.

Please sign up on the Signup Genius to donate taco toppings or desserts, which can be dropped off at Bethesda's kitchen on the morning of November 15th. If you would like to be part of Bethesda's delegation and enjoy great food and fellowship with the students, please be at Church of the Covenant by 6:00 PM.

Bishop Barbins will be visiting that night! Come along and represent Bethesda and help support the Bishop in connecting with the Campus Students!

Reach out to Chris Webner or sign up on the SignUp Genius in the enews if you'd like to help with dinner and/or attend worship that evening!

Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Let parking lot attendant know you are with UPCaM Dinner church and parking will be free.