Saint Luke Lutheran Church
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King
Sunday, November 22, 2026
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor



SAINT LUKE WELCOMES ALL TO WORSHIP!

We are grateful for your presence in today's worship. Your participation truly makes a difference. We hope you feel encouraged, blessed, and welcomed! In preparation for worship, please silence all electronic devices when entering the sanctuary in reverence to God and respect for others.

~ Members and visitors ~
Kindly remember to sign in using the friendship binders in your pew.

The flowers gracing the altar today are given in loving memory of son and brother, James Bryan Orrock. They are beautifully offered by the family.

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
~ Romans 8:38–39

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual Christmas Lunch is Sunday Dec 20. $10/pp. Ticket sales start today in Room 4 of the Fellowship Hall. More info on the community board and back of the bulletin. *We want everyone to share in this fellowship! If you or your family would like to attend, please don't let the ticket cost keep you away—we want everyone there and already have sponsorships in place to fully cover your meals. Simply reach out to* ***Dawn in the church office*** *or* ***Pastor Beth*** *so we can save your seats and get your entrée choices. Your request will remain completely private.*

- **IMPORTANT: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** ~ The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on December 6, 2026, immediately following the worship service. Please plan on attending and participating in this important St. Luke Congregational Meeting!!

PRELUDE

Festal Prelude on "O Worship the King" (Lyons), (from William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815), arr. Robert Lau. Bud Esper, organ. (c) 2012 Lorenz.

Congregation stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

Silence for reflection

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

C **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.

GATHERING HYMN "Crow Him With Many Crowns", #855

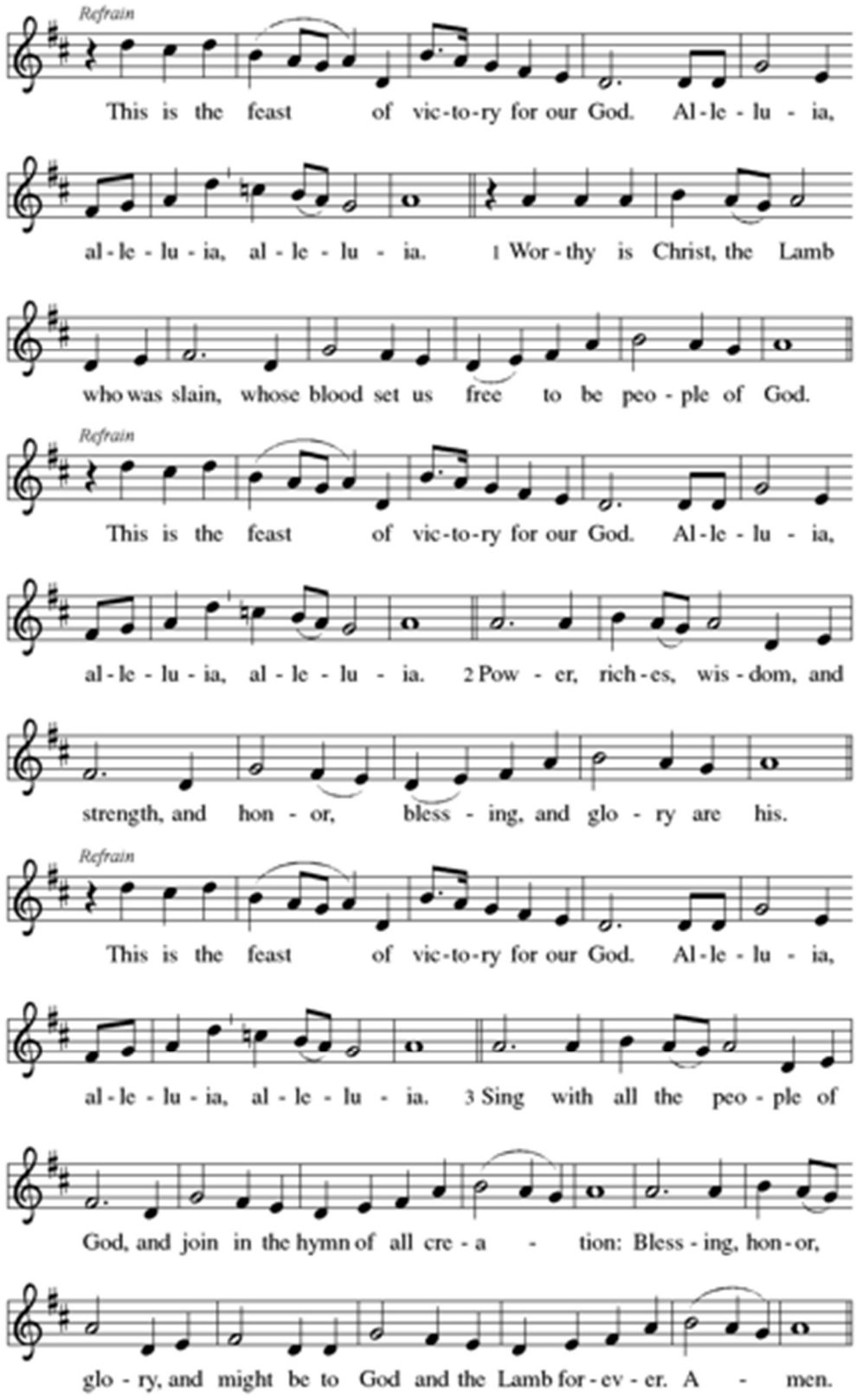
APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

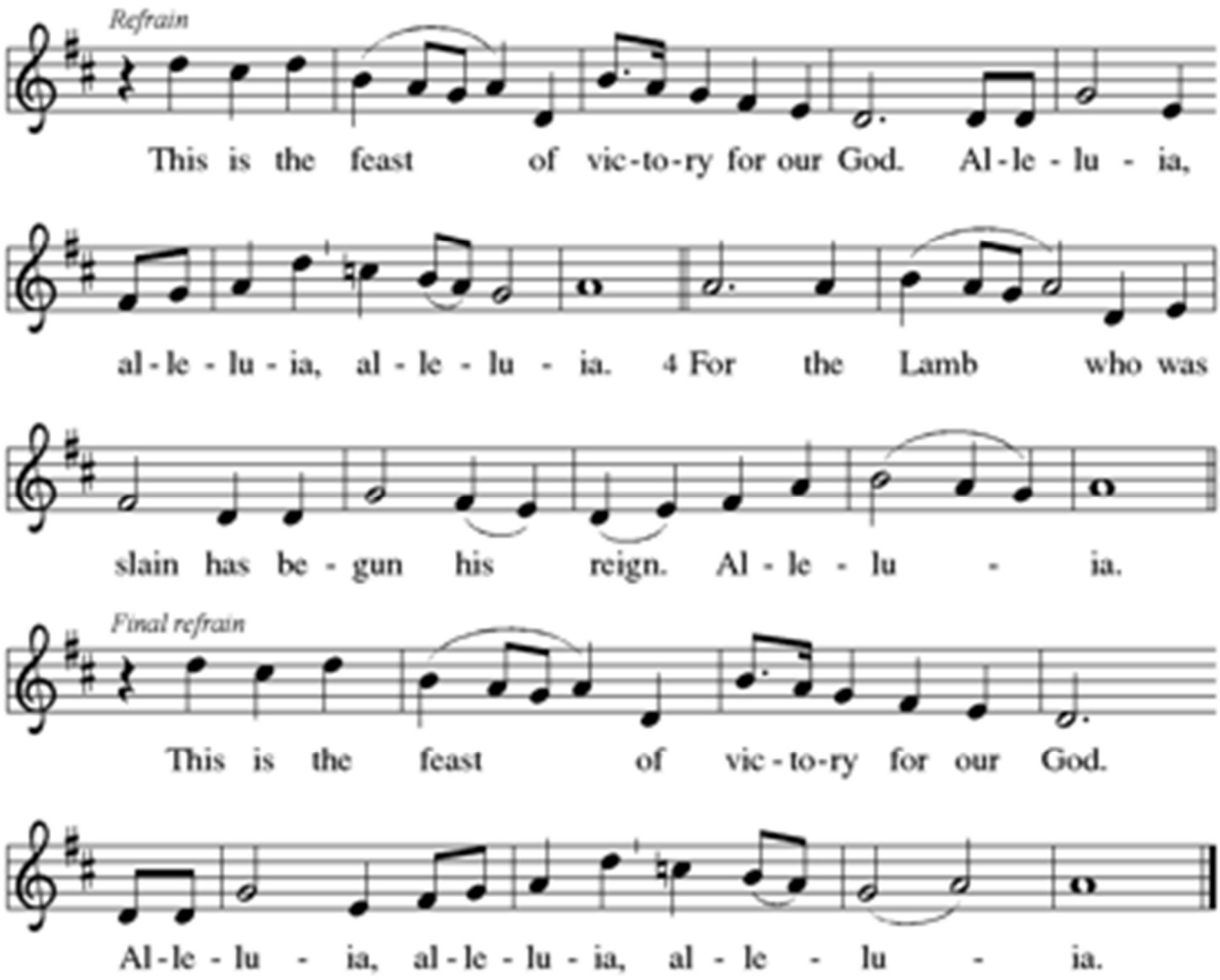
C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast" S-140 *(front of hymnal)*

(music on next page)



Continued on next page



PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

L [11] Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my
sheep and will sort them out. [12] As shepherds sort out
their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I
will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. [13] I will bring them out from
the peoples and gather them from the countries and
bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on
the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all
the inhabited parts of the land. [14] I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall
be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the
mountains of Israel. [15] I myself will be the shepherd of
my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord
God. [16] I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the
strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will
destroy. I will feed them with justice. [20] Therefore, thus
says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between
the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed
with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak
animals with your horns until you scattered them far
and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they shall no longer
be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant
David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and
be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God,
and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the
Lord have spoken.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

L [1] Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C [2] Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

L [3] For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C [4] In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

L [5] The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C [6] Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

L [7a] For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

L [15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the

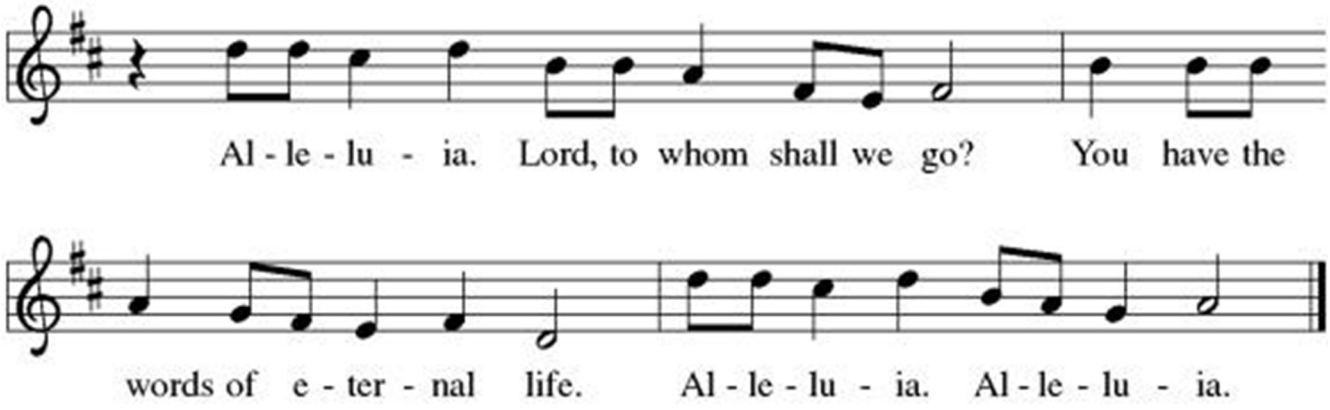
church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" S-142a



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33] and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34] Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37] Then

the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation sits

✢ SERMON ✢ "Reigning Over Fat Sheep and Old Goats"

✢ The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us", #431

THE APOSTLE'S CREED S-105 (*front of hymnal, page #105)*

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

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 INTERCESSION

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

C hear our prayer.

WA Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need (*especially Beverly Dague*). God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WA Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

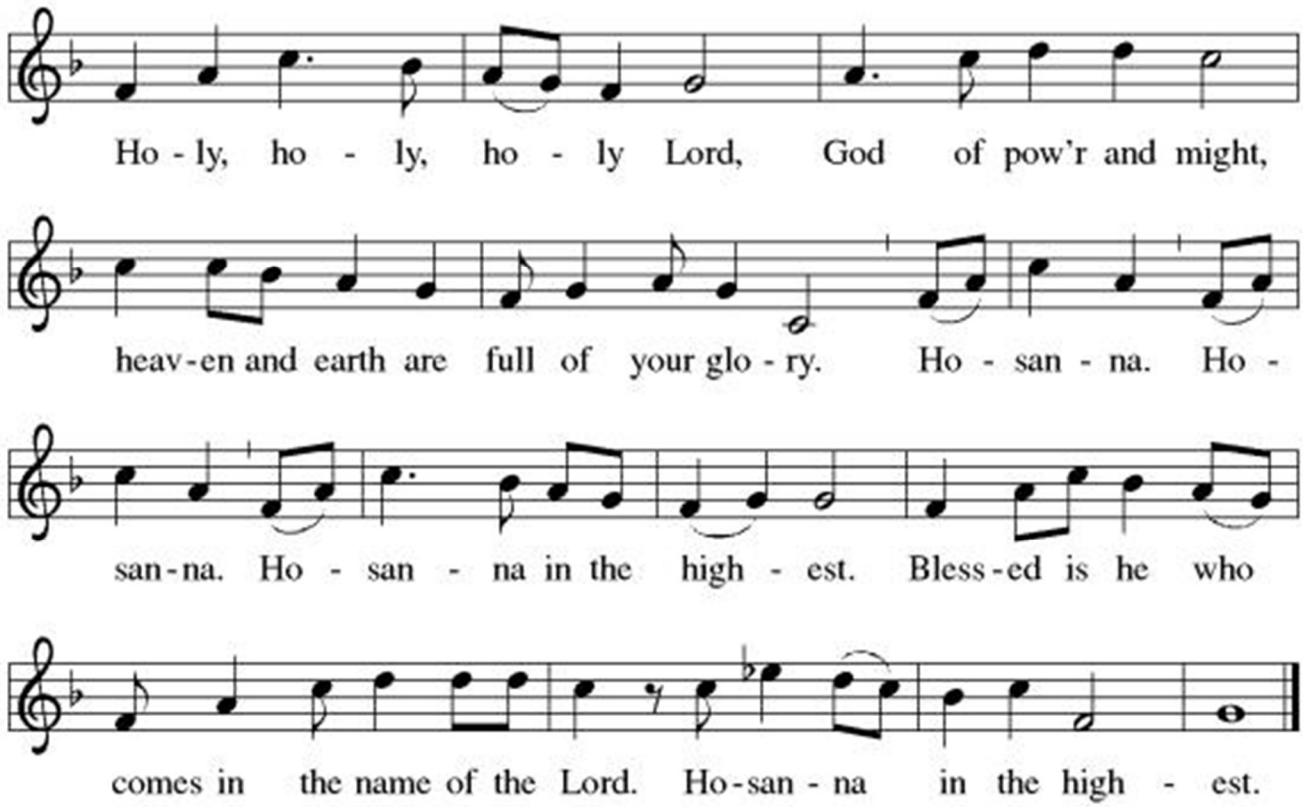
OFFERTORY ANTHEM "You Are the Christ", Joseph Martin. St. Luke Voice Choir. (c) 2009 Timespann.

Congregation stands
OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

OFFERING PRAYER
WA Let us pray.
C 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING S-144a *(front of hymnal)*
P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Life up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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: S-144b

(music on next page)



P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

C **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

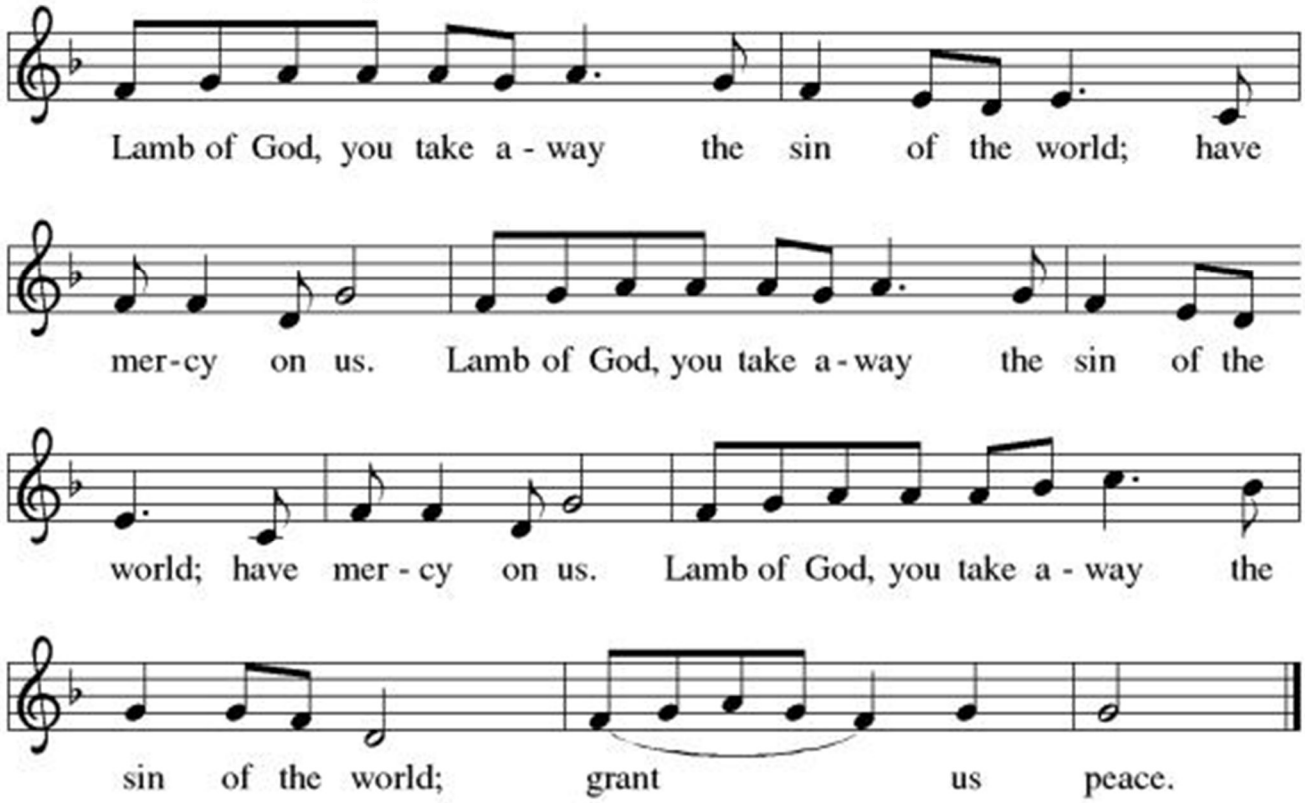
P In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, is open to all baptized Christians who receive Communion in their home church. All others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-146 *(front of hymnal)*



COMMUNION HYMNS

"O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts" #658
"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name", #634

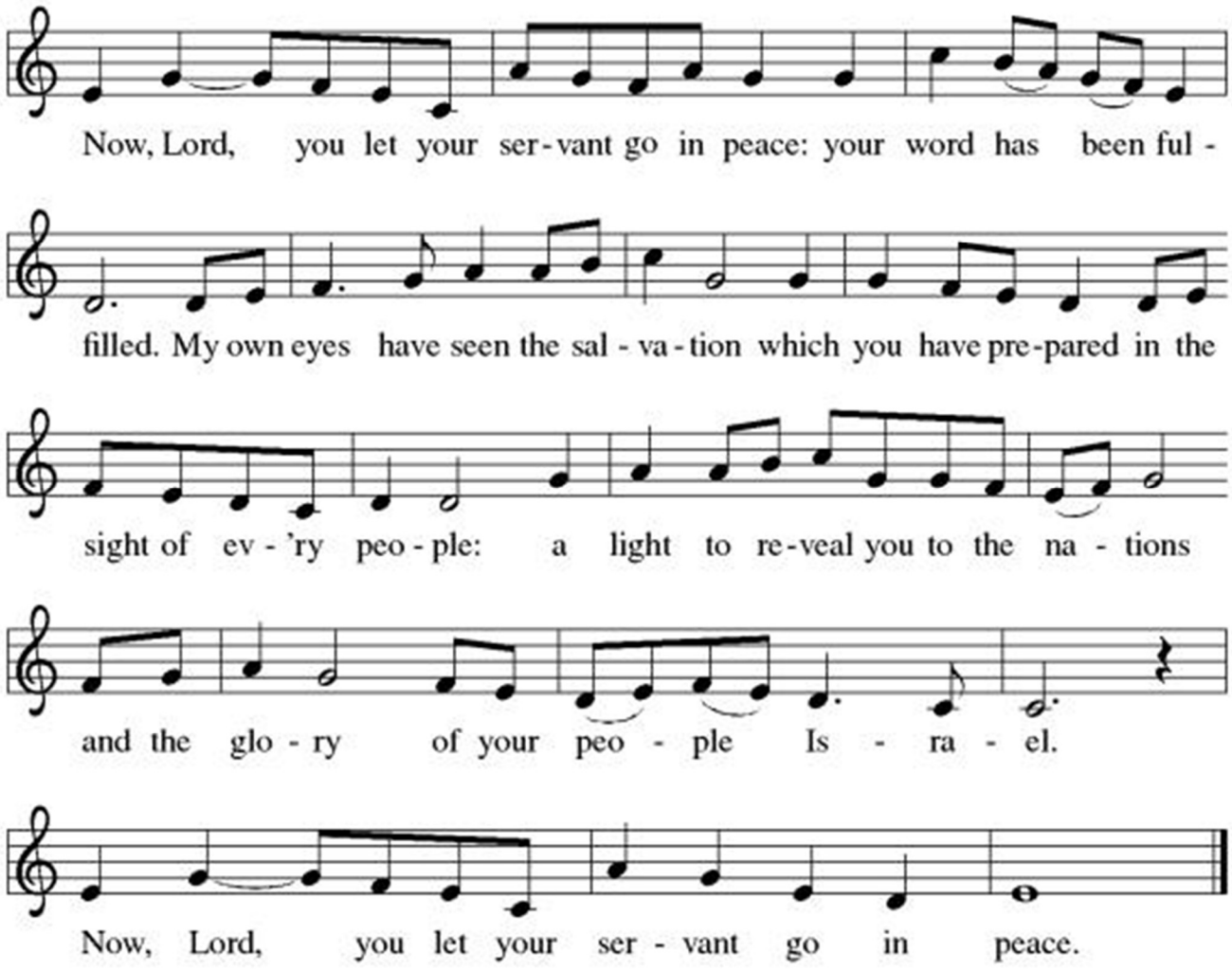
Congregation stands

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE S-113 *(front of hymnal)*



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WA 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.

BLESSING

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 HYMN "Thine the Amen", #826

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

--Thank you for worshiping with us today—

The following members assisted with today's worship service with live streaming:
Altar Guild: Cindy Eaton, Joyce Chairty | AV Team: Terry & Debbie Hildebrand
Cantor: Alice Christiansen | Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins, Conductor, St. Luke Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir
Communion Assistants: Dona Quinlan, Elaine Kirby | Crucifer: Beverly Werner
Eucharistic Minister: TBD | Greeters: Dan & Deb Mardis
Lector: Kim Hawkins | Ushers: Steve Kirby, Bob Moore, Beverly Werner, Richard Wood
Worship Assistant: Emil Gnam

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about joining St. Luke, please contact the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.
Upcoming availability: December 27

PRAYER LIST November 22, 2026

Beverly Dague

LUTHERAN LIFE

NEW HERE? COFFEE'S ON US! ☕ 🍪

We are so glad you worshiped with us at St. Luke today! Don't rush off just yet—follow the crowd down to the **Fellowship Hall** right after the service for **hot coffee, cold drinks, and homemade sweet treats**. No awkward small talk required; just grab a cookie, say a quick hello to Pastor Beth, and let us treat you!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on December 6, 2026, immediately following the worship service. Please plan on attending and participating in this important St. Luke Congregational Meeting!! *~Thank you, Council President, Karen Barnhart.*

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA) ~ DUE TODAY!** Wreaths are $17/each. Please make your check payable to SLLC "memo line WAA" and turn into the collection plate or drop off at the church office. *~Thank you, Glenn Christiansen.*
- **BFA Christmas Gift Program-Fill the Sleigh Christmas gift program** - Unwrapped gifts are due TODAY. Thank you for caring about others! Joan Eccard.
- **Sunday, November 29th is a fifth Sunday offering.** This month, we will be collecting to help local residents with their electric bills. Our collection will go to **Warm Homes,**

Warm Hearts, a program of Brunswick Electric. Its purpose is to keep essential heating, cooling, and refrigeration running for neighbors facing hardship—including elderly residents, struggling young families, and people dealing with unexpected medical expenses or job layoffs.

- **Decorating the Church for Christmas and Advent**: The St. Luke Altar Guild will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, December 5, at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun!
- **Help Make This the Best Advent Ever!** The Season preparing us to receive our Lord at Christ's Birth begins next Sunday. In addition to our Advent Wreath, Lessons, and Prayers at worship, what ways help us "keep Advent: through the week?" Join Pastor Beth next Sunday at 9:00 am in the Library for a kick-off Advent Adult Sunday School class. November 29 will be "show and tell"--so please bring any items that have helped you celebrate Advent at home---any favorite Advent wreaths or calendars, family traditions or devotions. A good exchange of ideas will certainly enhance this year's Advent Season for all of us. *Pastor Beth will continue to teach this class on the other Sundays of Advent: Dec 6: The Christmas Story According to Mark & John; Dec 13: The Christmas Story According to Luke; Dec 20: The Christmas Story According to Matthew. You are welcome to attend any or all.*
- 🎄 **Annual Christmas Show Outing: "Christmas on Main"** Tickets for the theatre are $34 per person, and dinner will be self-pay at the restaurant. Sign up by Sunday, November 29. *~Thank you, Karen Nelson at 910-269-3095.*
- **Help Us Extend Our Reach!**

  💻 We are seeking volunteers to join a rotational team responsible for uploading our Sunday livestream service to the website. Other website maintenance tasks are also available. Basic laptop navigation skills are required. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact **Lori Schneider (910) 232-7558**.

  Sunday Worship Volunteers Needed: AV & Worship Assistants

  Help make Sunday morning worship meaningful for our congregation! We are looking for volunteers to join our rotating teams in two key areas:

  - **Audio/Visual (AV) Team:** Help run sound and livestreaming during Sunday services. Only basic laptop skills are needed—we will gladly provide full training!
  - **Worship Assistants:** Serve in the sanctuary by helping lead parts of the liturgy, reading scripture, or assisting with communion.

  Whether you prefer serving in the sanctuary or behind the scenes, we would love to have you on the rotation. To learn more or sign up, please contact **Dawn** at the **Church Office** at **910.579.0107**.
- **COOKIES!** We need cookies for fellowship! Please drop off these items in the Kitchen.
- **The Lord's Food Pantry** ~ Please help us provide dessert for TLFP Christmas boxes! We are collecting cake mixes, cans of Sprite or 7 Up and canisters of frosting. Drop them off in the Fellowship Hall Narthex.
- **LMM** IS meeting (PIZZA dinner) on November 30th. *Property Committee only is cancelled on that date.*
- 🎄 **Annual Christmas Luncheon Sunday, December 20, 2026 | Immediately Following Worship** You are cordially invited to celebrate the joy of the season with your faith family at our Annual Christmas Luncheon! *We want everyone to share in*

this fellowship! If you or your family would like to attend, please don't let the ticket cost keep you away—we want everyone there and already have sponsorships in place to fully cover your meals. Simply reach out to ***Dawn in the church office*** *or* ***Pastor Beth*** *so we can save your seats and get your entrée choices. Your request will remain completely private.* **Tickets: $10 per person**, on sale during Sunday Fellowship in the **Game Room (Room 4)** of the Fellowship Hall now through **Sunday, December 6** (final day to purchase). You will select your entrée at the time of purchase—please remember to bring your physical ticket for collection at the door. **Festive Menu:** Choice of **Chicken or Pot Roast**, served with salad, Grecian potatoes, green beans, and dinner rolls, plus banana pudding and cake for dessert. Coffee, hot tea, iced tea, and water included.

- **In Loving Memory ~ Sheila Schmidt** - Sheila Schmidt was interred in a private ceremony on November 4. A celebration of Sheila's life will be held at a future date. If you would like to send condolences to Eric Schmidt, cards may be mailed to: Eric Schmidt 2650 Erfert St., Unit E306, Longmont, Colorado 80504
- **Gary H. Reynolds' Celebration of Life Service is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2026, 11am at Saint Luke.**

This Week at Saint Luke ~ November, 2026

Sunday, November 22	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
Christ the King	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!
Monday, November 23	3pm	MexTrain
	5pm	WOSL Dinner & Meeting (Guest speaker, Robin Ralph, w/Life Care Memory Partners
Tuesday, November 24	10am	Morning Prayer & Coffee – Fellowship Hall
	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, November 25	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Thursday, November 26		Happy Thanksgiving!
Sunday, November 22	9am	Adult Sunday School – "*Advent Show & Tell"*
First Sunday of Advent	10am	Worship with live streaming
	11am	Fellowship - All Are Welcome!

Scripture Readings ~ November 29, 2026 ~ First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37

SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner Neubauer, Interim Pastor
Dawn Plyler, Parish Administrator
Kristen Killoran, Worship Assistant
Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org
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