THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, November 15, 2026

8:15 and 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

SUNDAY SERVICE

8:15 AM | Service of the Word
9:00 AM | Choir Practice
9:30 AM |Education Hour: Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Forum
10:30 AM | Service & livestreamed

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on our Facebook page StPaulArlingtonMA. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, but without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY

Kerri Frick, *Presiding Minister*
Lydia Zuehsow and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Matthew and Emily Hering, *Acolytes*
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*
Tim Ryan, *Lector*
Taryn Walsh, *Assisting Minister*
Mat Carter and Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast Team*
Peter & Hollie Schmidt and Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.*
At the ☩, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.
*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE John Stanley (1712-1786): Voluntary in D minor, Op. 5 No. 2, Adagio

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

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

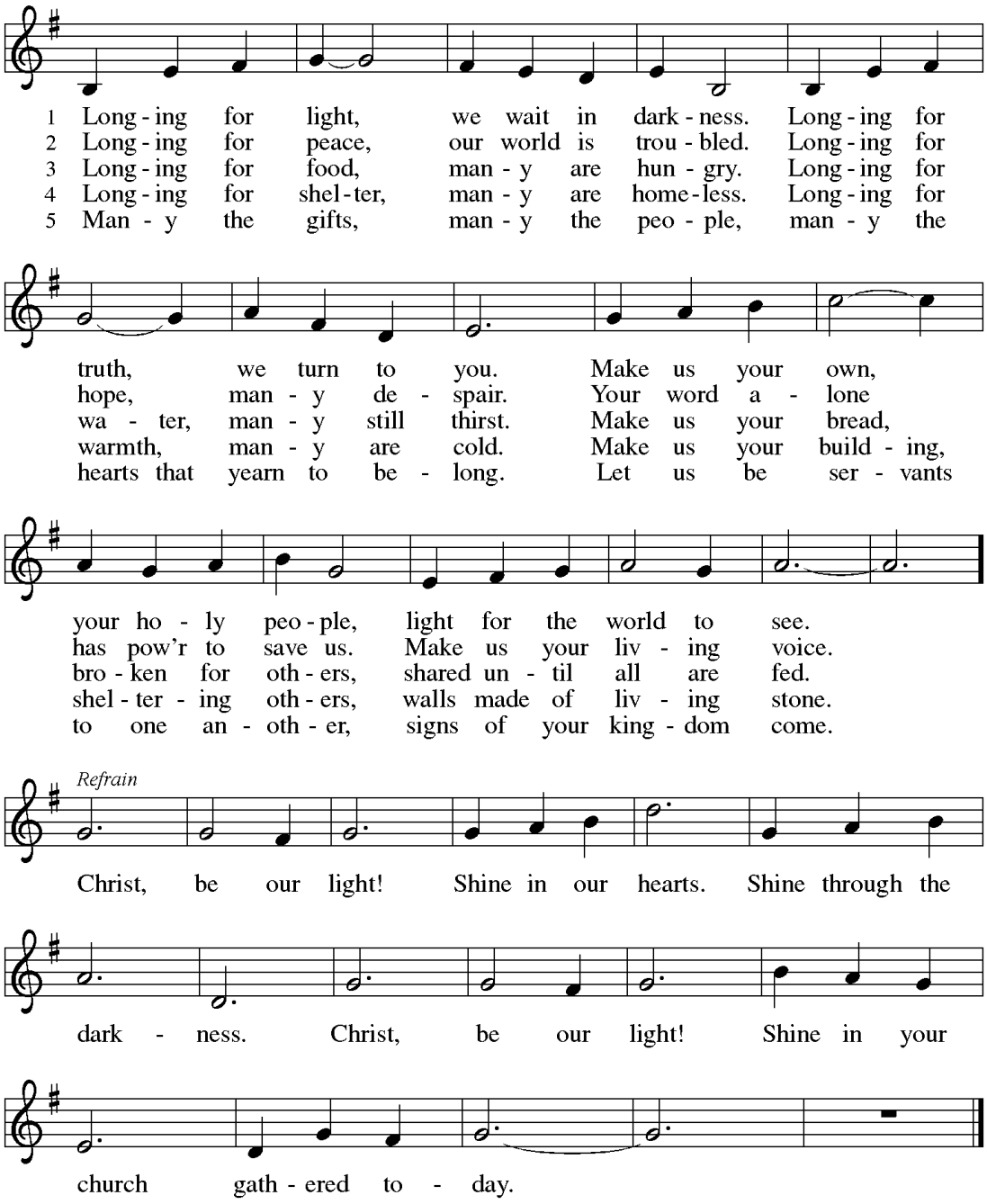
Silence for self-examination and reflection

I confess to God Almighty before the whole company of heaven, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty before the whole company of heaven, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

"Christ, Be Our Light" ELW 715

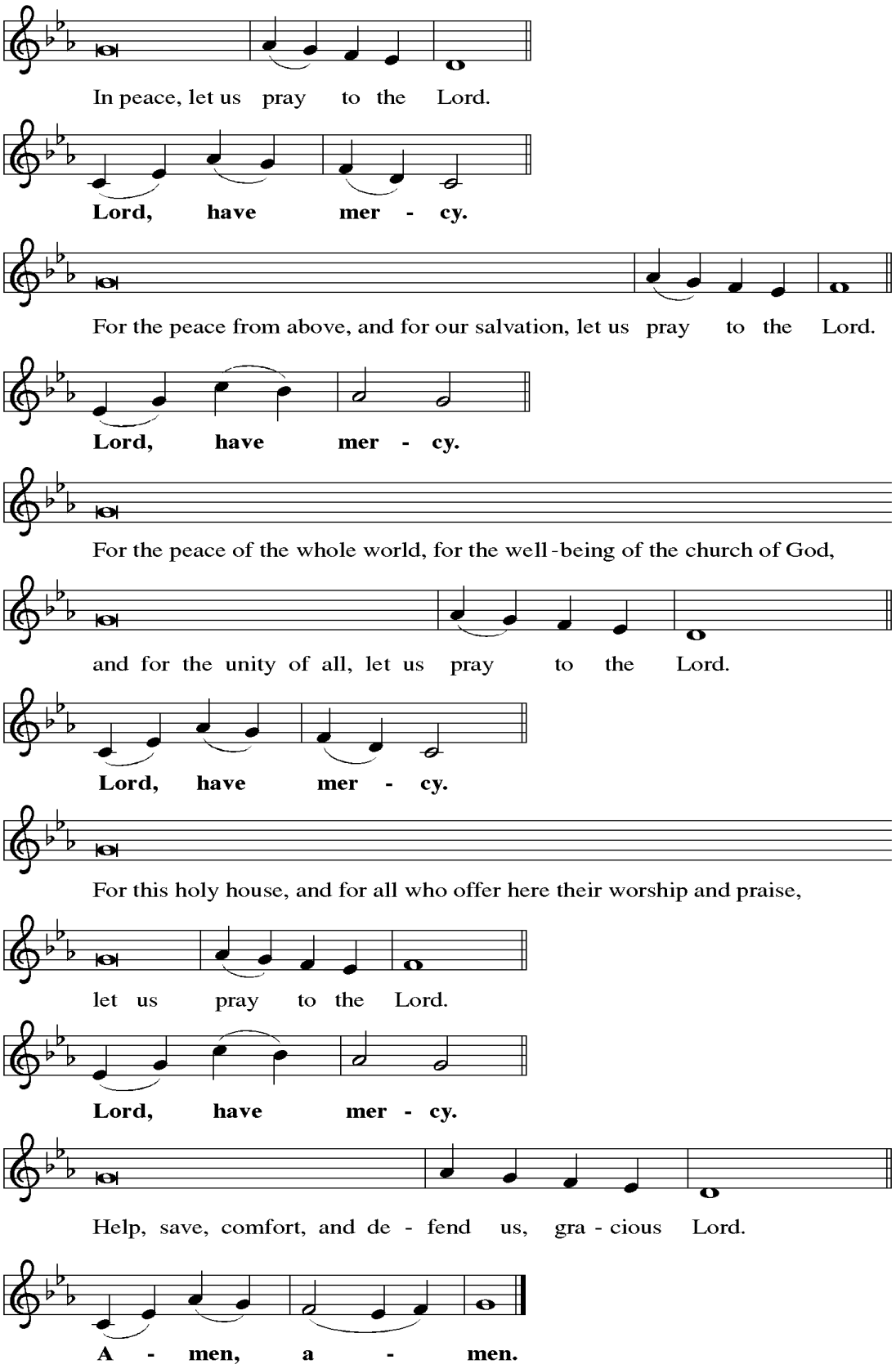


*** GREETING**
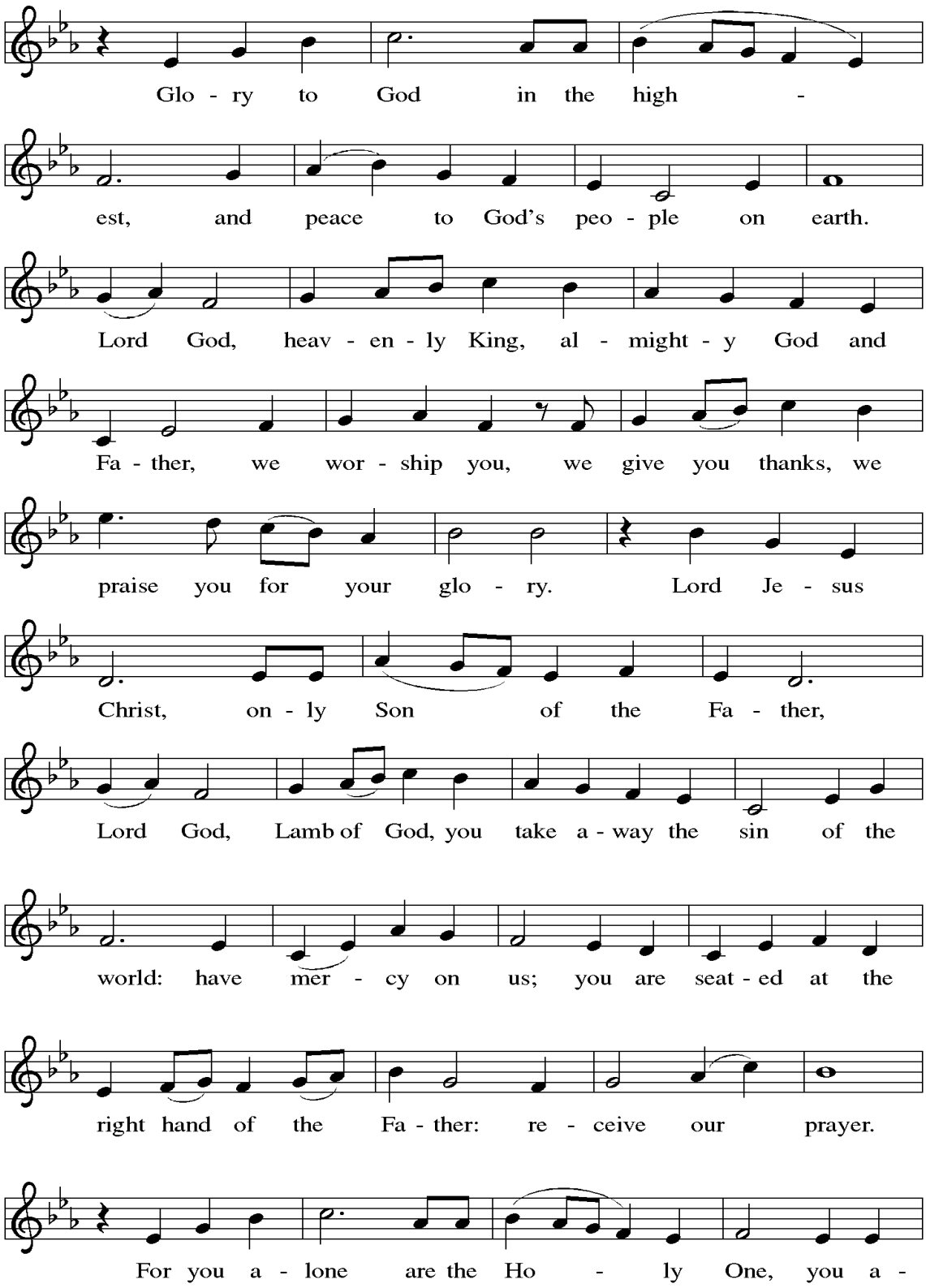
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

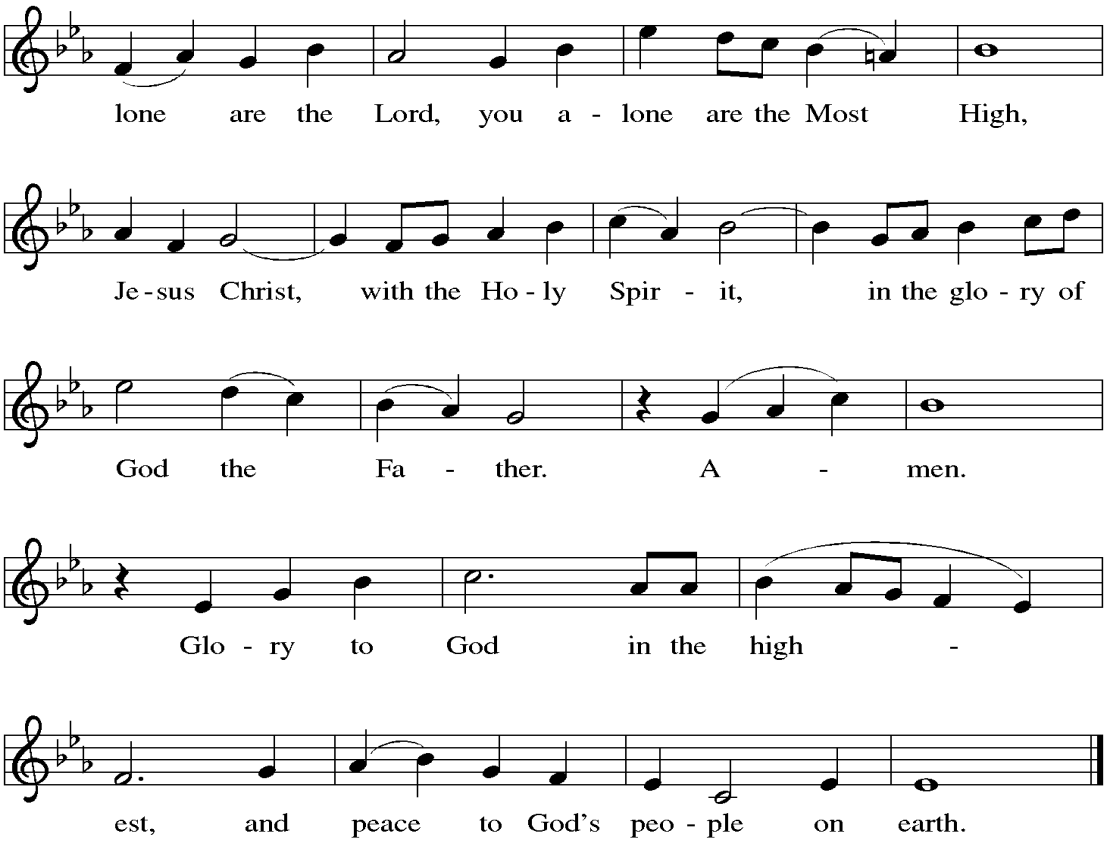
And also with you.

*** KYRIE (only sung at 10:30 service)**



*** HYMN OF PRAISE (only sung at 10:30 service)**





*** 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.

TEMPLE TALK Darby Grande Hering

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-12



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 child- | ren 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 num- | ber our days, that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

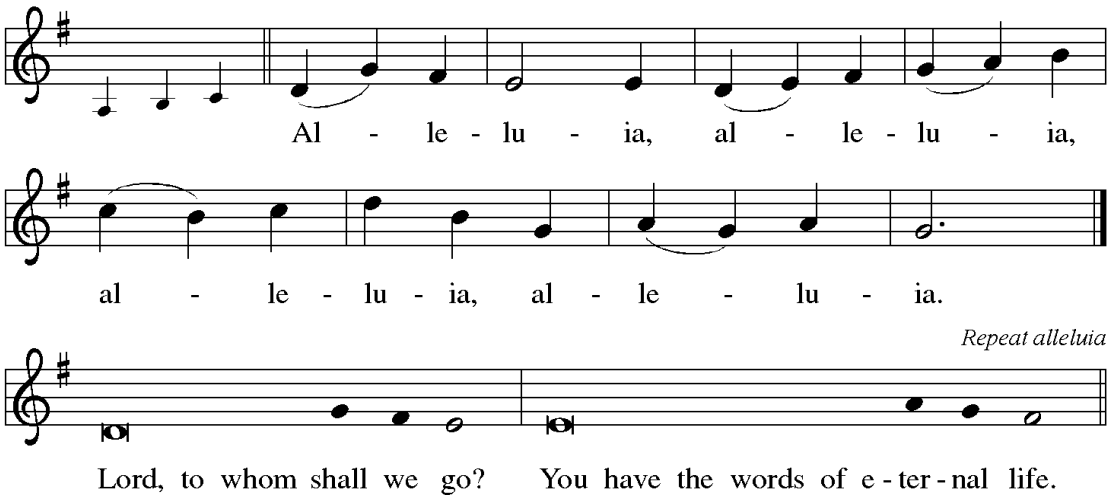
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

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.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

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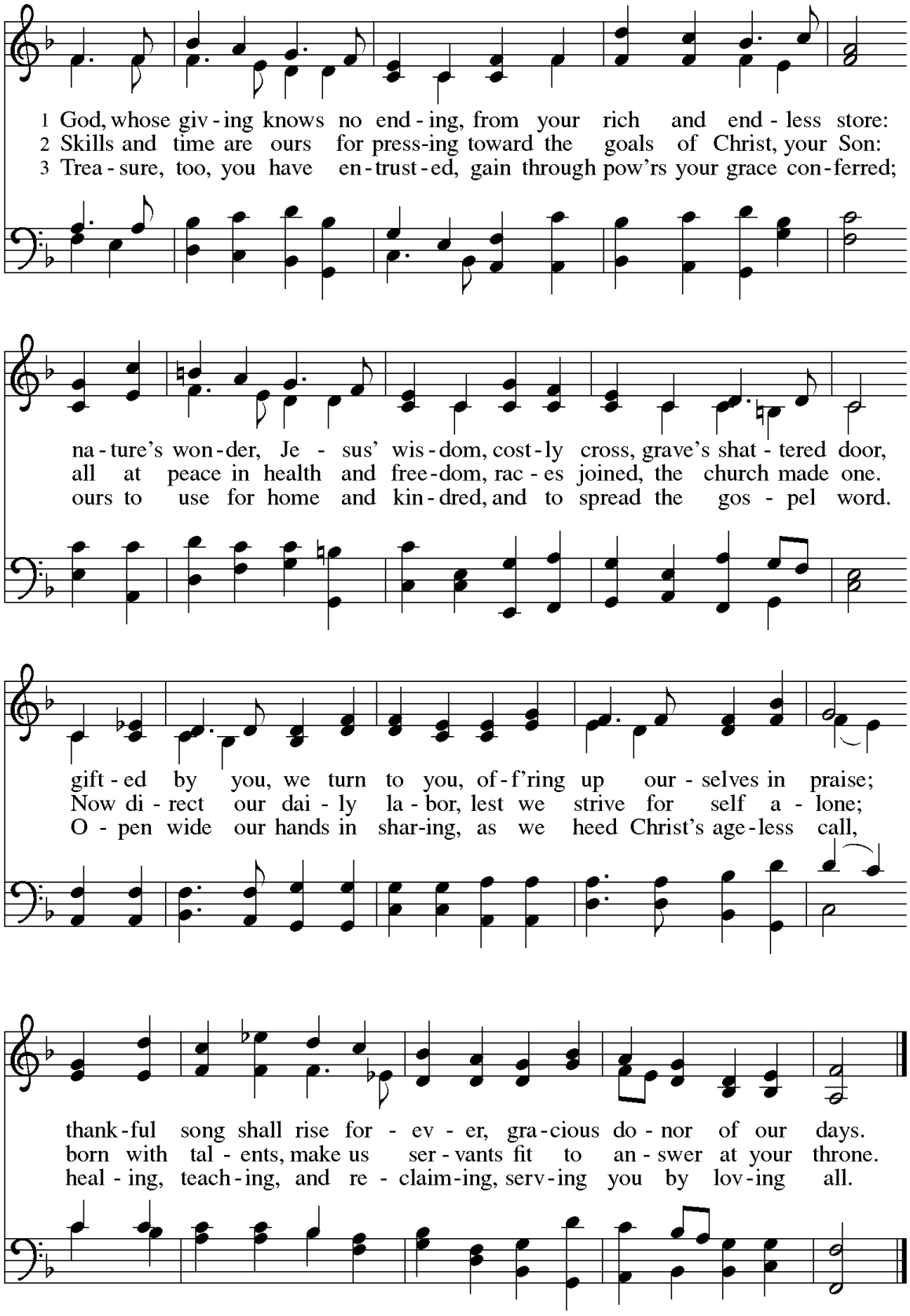
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents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

CHILDREN'S TIME AND SERMON Taryn Walsh reading
sermon by Pastor Don Larsen

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" ELW 678



APOSTLES CREED
With praise and gratitude, 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 into hell.
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**
As is our custom, please face one another across the center aisle. The deacon invites us to prayer and offers the first intercession. As you are moved to pray, you are invited to pray any of the following intercessions aloud.

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 *especially* Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and Somalia. 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 (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). 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.

*** PEACE**
Keep your hands together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM John Rutter: For the Beauty of the Earth

OFFERING
You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning the QR code. You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate as it passes through congregation.

Pledge Cards for 2027 may also be placed in the offering plate
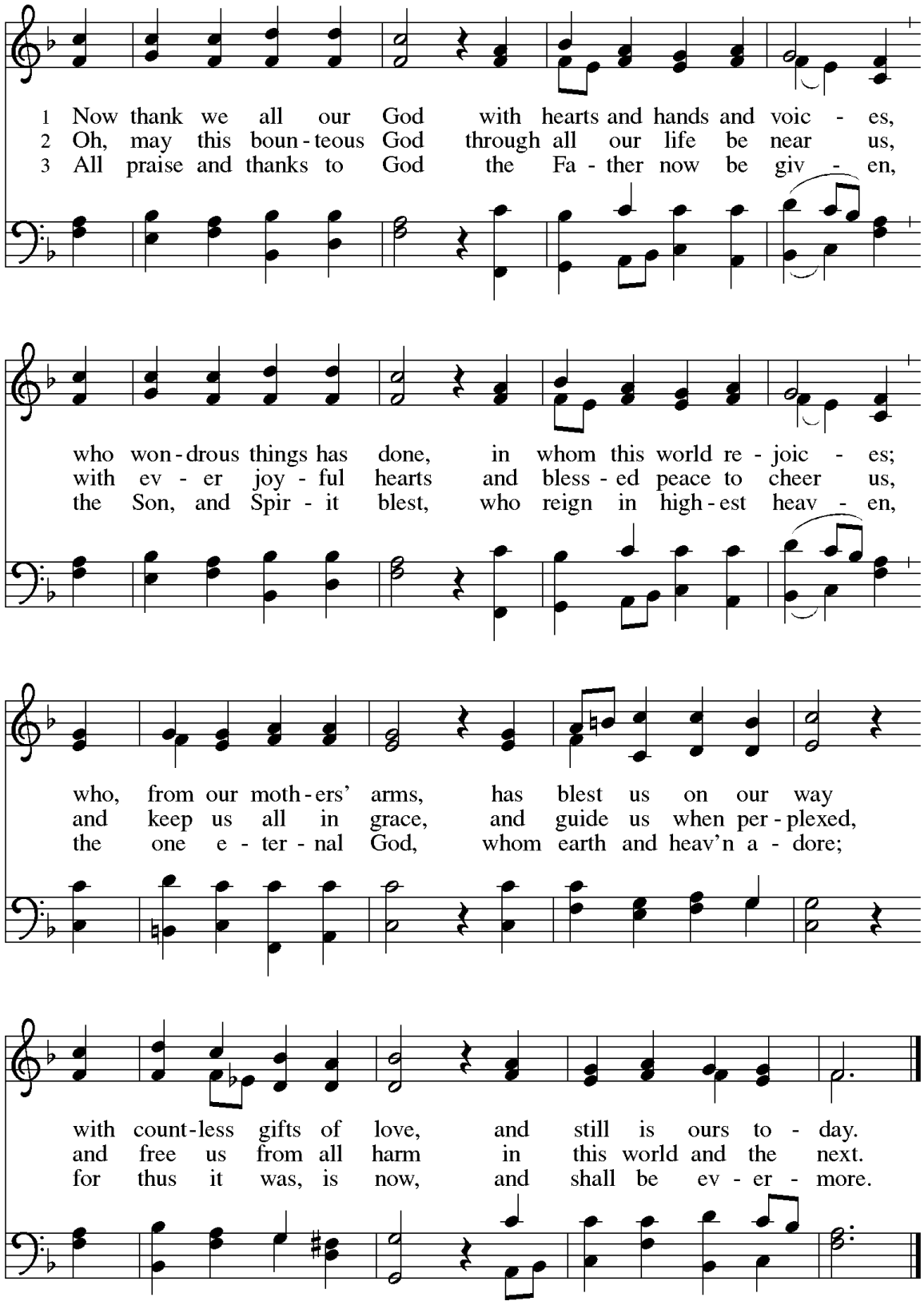
As the offering plates are received, this prayer is said together:

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray**.**
Dear God, we are grateful for all that you have done among us and promise still to do. Strengthen us with all we need to serve you, and use us – our time, talents, and money – for the work you do through this congregation; through him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

"Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840



***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Oh God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the works 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,
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.

SENDING

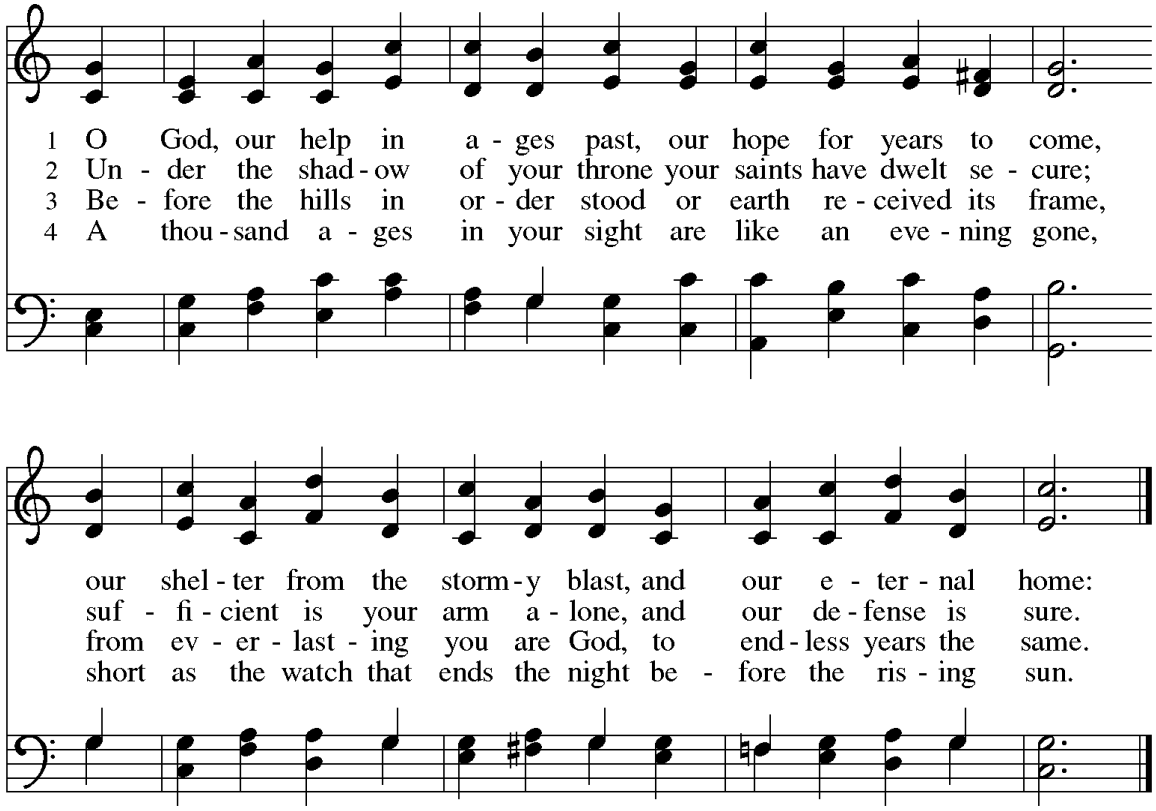
*** BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING HYMN**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE John Stanley (1712-1786): Voluntary in D minor, Op. 5 No. 2, Allegro

Upcoming Commemorations

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

WE WELCOME PASTOR GREG MILESKI AS A SHORT TERM PASTOR

St. Paul welcomes Pastor Greg Mileski to serve while Pastor Don Larsen is out. Pastor Greg recently preached and led the adult forum on October 8th. We are excited to welcome him back!
Pastor Mileski is currently a doctoral candidate and Boston College School of Divinity
Pastor Greg begins his service at St. Paul on November 16. He will lead worship each week, advise the church council and lead the weekly staff meetings. He will also assist with confirmation classes.
gregmileski@gmail.com

Pastor Tom Maehl and Vicar Jessi Labenski of First Lutheran in Waltham will be available for pastoral care during this time.

Rev. Thomas Maehl has been pastor at First Lutheran since 1999, following a ten year career as a software developer. He earned his Masters of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.
Contact Pastor Maehl: **tmaehl@rcn.com**

Vicar Jessi Labenski (she/her) is a proud Minnesotan who recently graduated with her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Her favorite classes in seminary were about preaching death with the Earth, living with strangers, Martin Luther King Jr.'s theology of nonviolence, and how to preach about biblical women. Jessi is a candidate for the office of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA.
Contact Vicar Jessi: **firstlutheranwalthamvicar@gmail.com**

ASCENTRIA GIVING TREE 2026
We have again committed to fulfill the wish lists of 20 of Ascentria's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Unaccompanied Children. Each minor lists 3 wishes. At signup you can choose to fulfill one or more wishes for one or more youth. Some youth have been very specific in the things they have asked for, so donors are welcome to purchase a gift card toward the item if that is preferred.
Signup is ongoing today, Nov 15 and on Nov 22nd. Gifts will be collected each week, but all gifts must be in by Sunday November 29.
Bring your gift to church unwrapped with the gift tag/label (provided) firmly taped to package by Sunday November 29

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION FOR LOCAL IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
Lamplight Women's Literacy, a local nonprofit serving low-income immigrants and refugees, is inviting volunteers to help with their annual student Thanksgiving celebration. This celebration shares the Thanksgiving tradition with adult learners in their English language program, while also celebrating the students' hard work during the fall term.
Two ways to get involved:

1.Contribute an ingredient to the meal.
Sign-up via QRcode (below) or at https://tinyurl.com/Tdayingredients
Ingredients to be dropped off at St.Paul's kitchen on Sunday, November 15th.
Help cook!
Volunteer on Monday, November 16th, from 9:30am-12:30pm, to help prepare the meal in St.Paul's kitchen. Sign up by emailing Lisa Chiulli Lay at lisa@lamplightliteracy.org

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
In response to the devastation of WWII several churches banded together to form an organization dedicated to helping people around the world. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) formed in 1945, and began working with local communities. Learn more at LWR.org.

When disaster hits, LWR partners with local leaders and sponsors to provide immediate relief. LWR stays, often for the long term, to help communities recover and face the future. LWR works not only in the United States but all over the world where there are wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, or violence.

This year the Social Ministry at St. Paul gave $1000 toward girls' education in Sierra Leone. Looking ahead toward the Lenten season 2027, Social Ministry will start a collection for LWR personal care kits. Stay tuned for details in February 2027.

FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE
Group Volunteer Opportunity at the Food Link Hub in Arlington on Thursday December 10 from 2:00-3:00 pm.
This is a hand-on experience, activities may include sorting produce and non-perishable food, packaging baked goods, loading/unloading vehicles with supplies, and cleaning tasks inside and/or outside the building
Our group is limited to 10 individuals, Adults and Children age 10-18 accompanied by adult.
This event requires registration and waivers.
Contact Jan Sniffen jsniffen.js@gmail.com for further details.

ARLINGTON EATS!
NOVEMBER SPOTLIGHT ITEMS

- Pasta sauce
- Dried Fruit & Nuts (almonds, walnuts, dates, cranberries, dried apples, mango)
- Soy sauce
- Stock/bullion
- Crackers
- Quinoa
- Farro
- Laundry detergent (smaller bottles or sheets)

Poinsettia Order Form 2026



Please consider sponsoring poinsettias used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve Services. Poinsettas will be ordered in 6.5 inch pots in a choice of white, red or pink colors wrapped in gold foil for the price of $12.00. (Color substitutions may need to be made if necessary). *Please feel free to take your plant home at the end of the 2nd service on Christmas Eve.*

Number of plants desired:

Red poinsettia (6.5") _____ x $12 each = _____

White poinsettia (6.5") _____ x $12 each = _____

Pink poinsettia (6.5") _____ x $12 each = _____

Total payment = _____

If you would like to have a dedication printed in the bulletin, please complete the following:
*Flowers are given*_____
(example: Poinsettias are given in memory of ..*name of loved ones..* by the Smith Family.)

Contact Name: _____

Phone number or email:_____

Payment may be mailed to the church, attached to the Order Form or made through Givelify.
Make checks payable to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.
Be sure to indicate "Poinsettia Order" on your payment.

Deadline for placing orders will be Sunday, November 29.
CALL IN YOUR ORDER TO THE CHURCH OFFICE 781-646-7773
OR
PLACE COMPLETED FORM ON THE ENTRANCE TABLE AT THE CHURCH
OR

EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

SAINT PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*	stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*	anazecicjeffers@gmail.com
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*	stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*	parishadmin@stpaularlington.org
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*	

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*
Sandy Walker, *Vice President*
Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*
Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*
Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*
Kristen Anderson
Eric Carlson
Elizabeth Heichler
Dave Hering
Kathleen Kean
Kevin Kreutter
Taryn Walsh

Committees	Chairperson
Altar Guild	Kelli Oliver
Faith Formation Committee	Bev Hjorth
Intern Committee	Kristen Anderson
Social Ministry Committee	Janice Sniffen
Nomination Committee	Taryn Walsh
Worship & Music Committee	John Christiansen
Finance Committee	Eric Haugen
Audit Committee	Eric Haugen
Usher Committee	Dan Ries & Andy Airasian
Property Committee	Eric Carlson
Call Committee	Sandy Walker

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Liturgical materials and visuals reproduced by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003024. ⊚ Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ⊚ Music reprinted under OneLicense #A-709763. All rights reserved. ⊚ Psalm reprinted from *St. Martin's Psalter* by Thomas Pavlechko. Copyright © 2010 St. James Music Press.