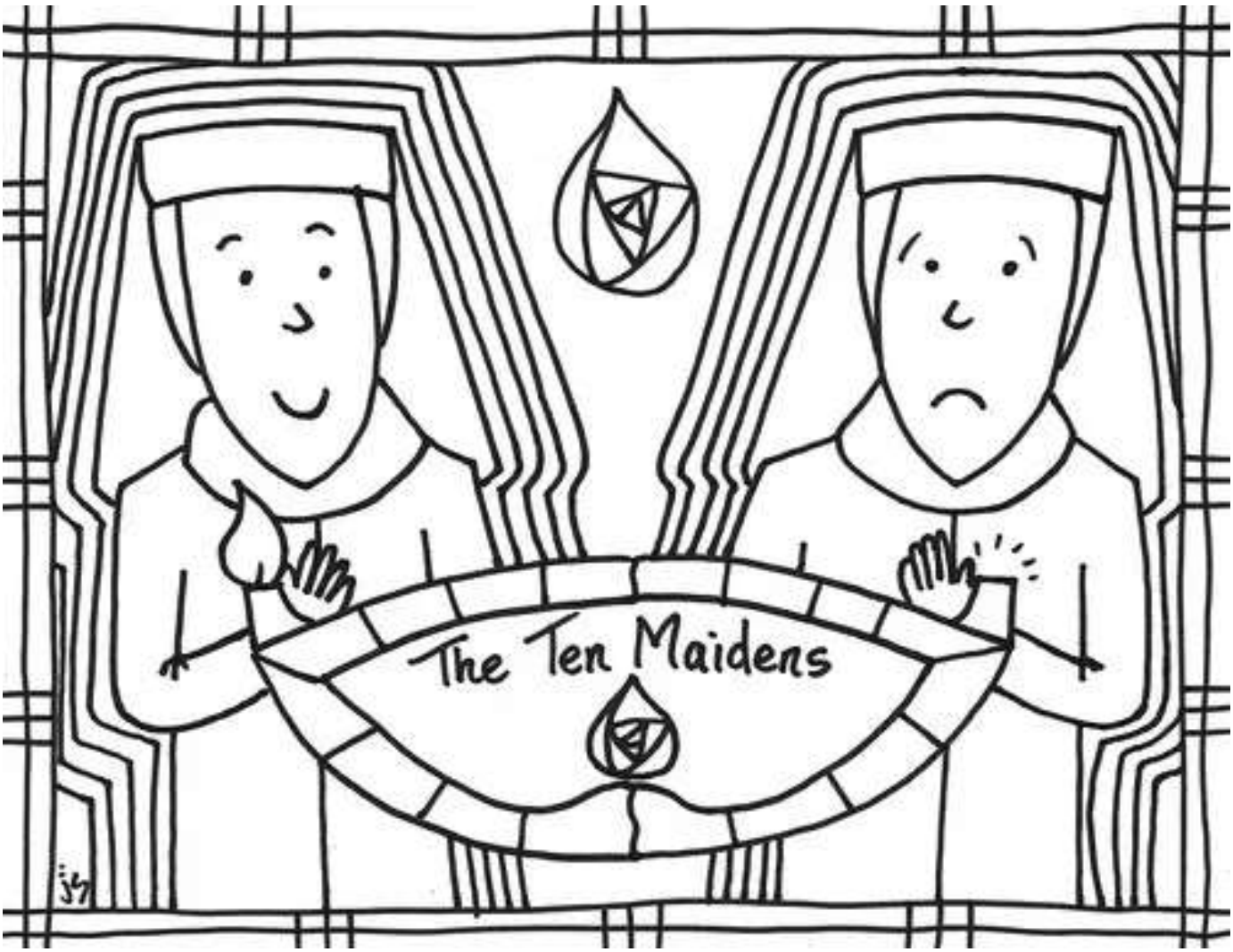
24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8th, 2026



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton ~ St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	pastor@gethsemanestl.org
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson	connect@gethsemanestl.org
Office Manager: Eve Cooney	office@gethsemanestl.org
Minister of Music/Choir Director: Amy Crousore	organist@gethsemanestl.org
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel	handbelldirector@gethsemanestl.org
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850	cayce.morice@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.
Outside of these hours, please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

office@gethsemanestl.org www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Setting 12

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Deep River* African American Spiritual, Arr. Kurt Kaiser

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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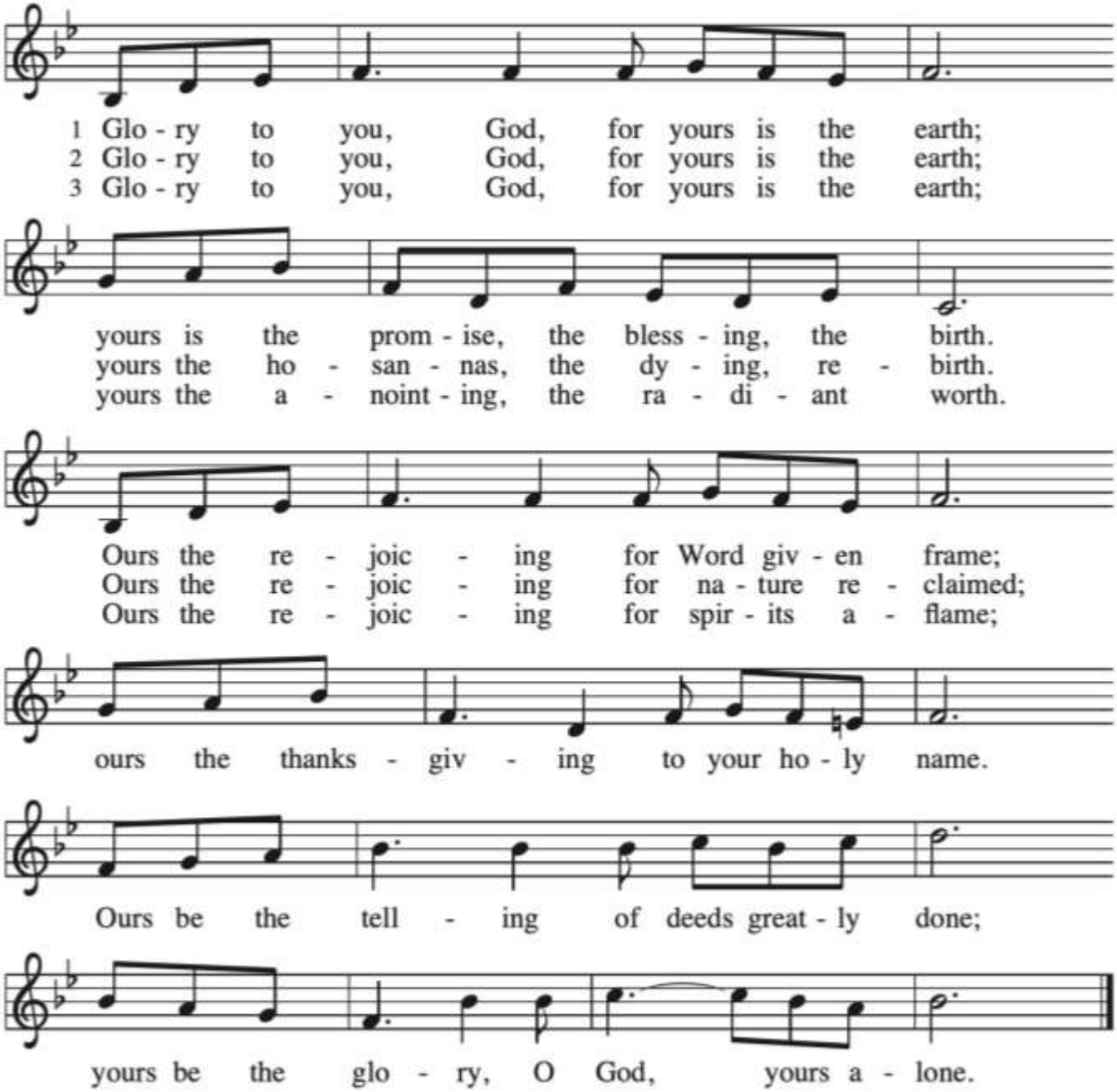
P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ***My Lord, What a Morning*** **HYMN# 438**

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

MISSION MOMENT *Fynn Wolfsberger and Evan Gorvie, Stewardship*

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

[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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 43

A cantor will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.

[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.
[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.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

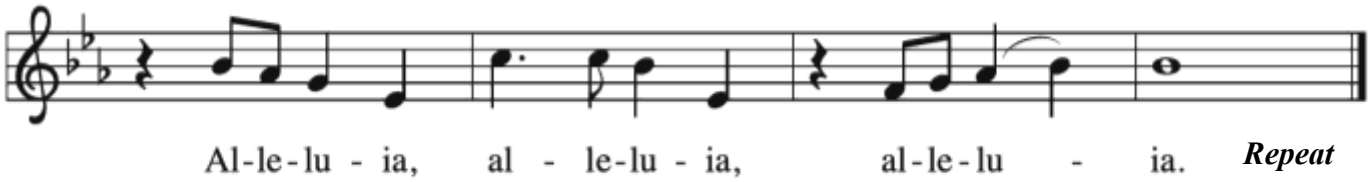
[13]We do not want you to be uninformed, dear family, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15]For this we declare to you by the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

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1]"The dominion 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, 'Sir, sir, 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
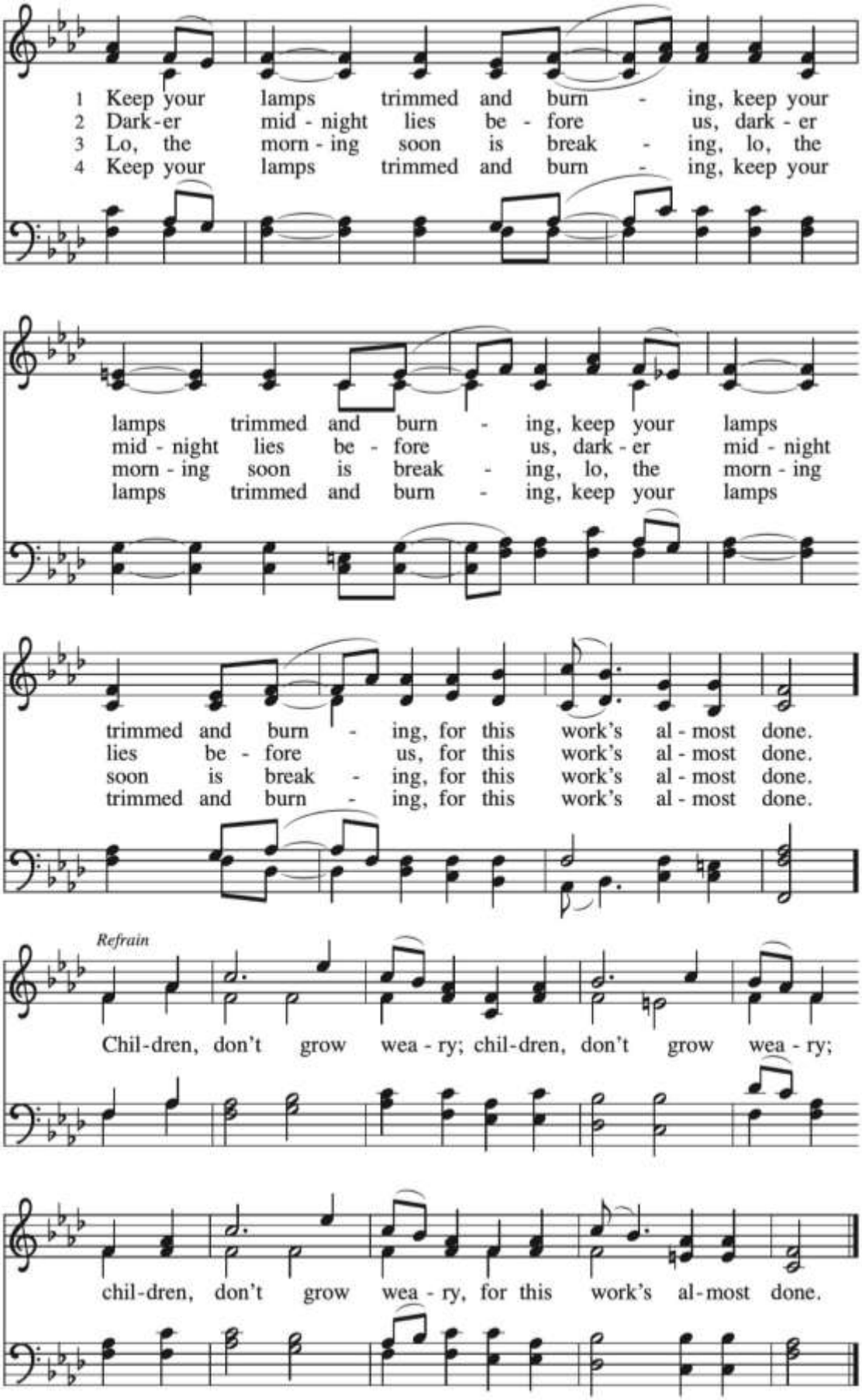
The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ***Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning***



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

P: Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.
C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

AM: . . . 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 the Lord be with you always.
C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord: Peace be with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.**

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: (Gethsemane choir) *Soon and Very Soon* Andraé Crouch
Arr. Jack Schrader

The congregation rises in body or spirit.
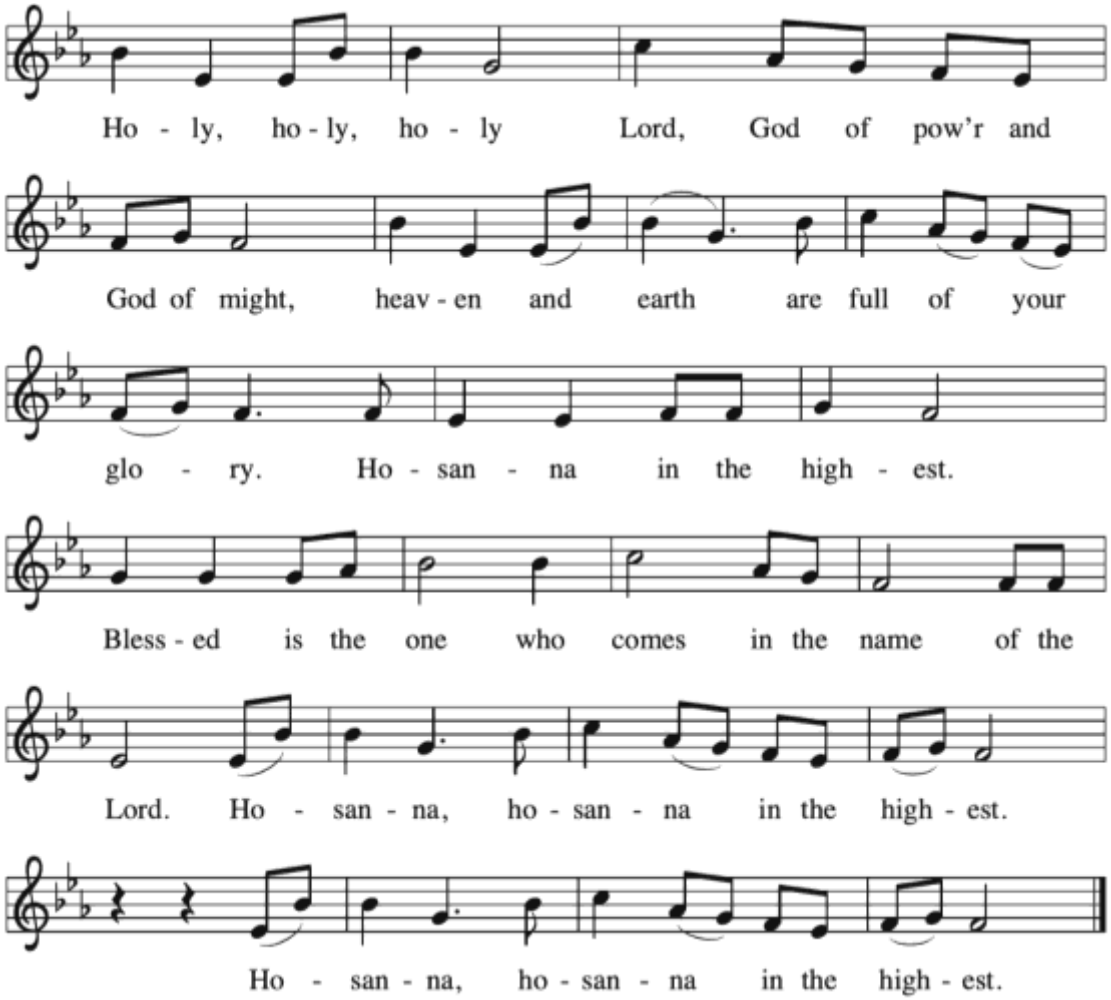
OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift 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 our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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
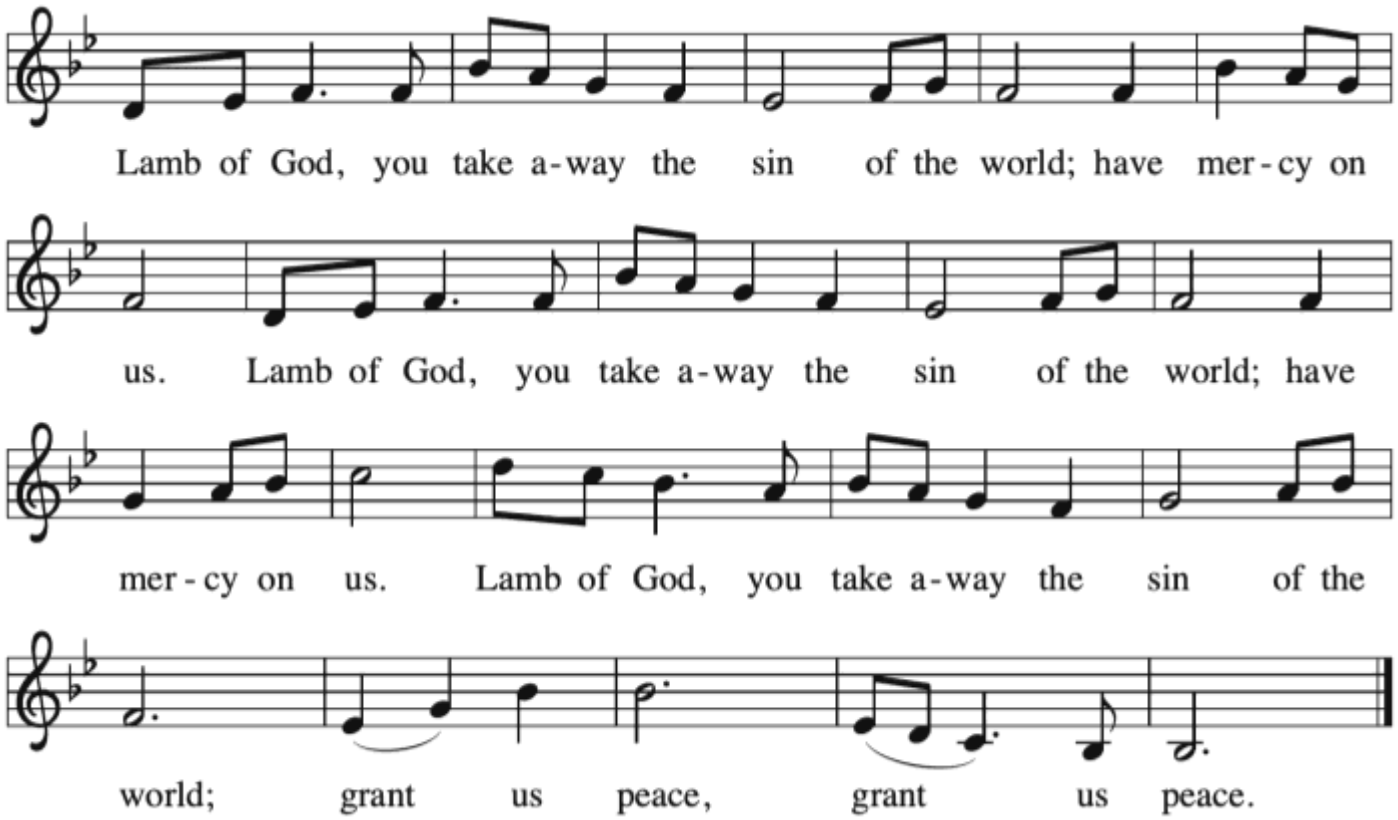
COMMUNION

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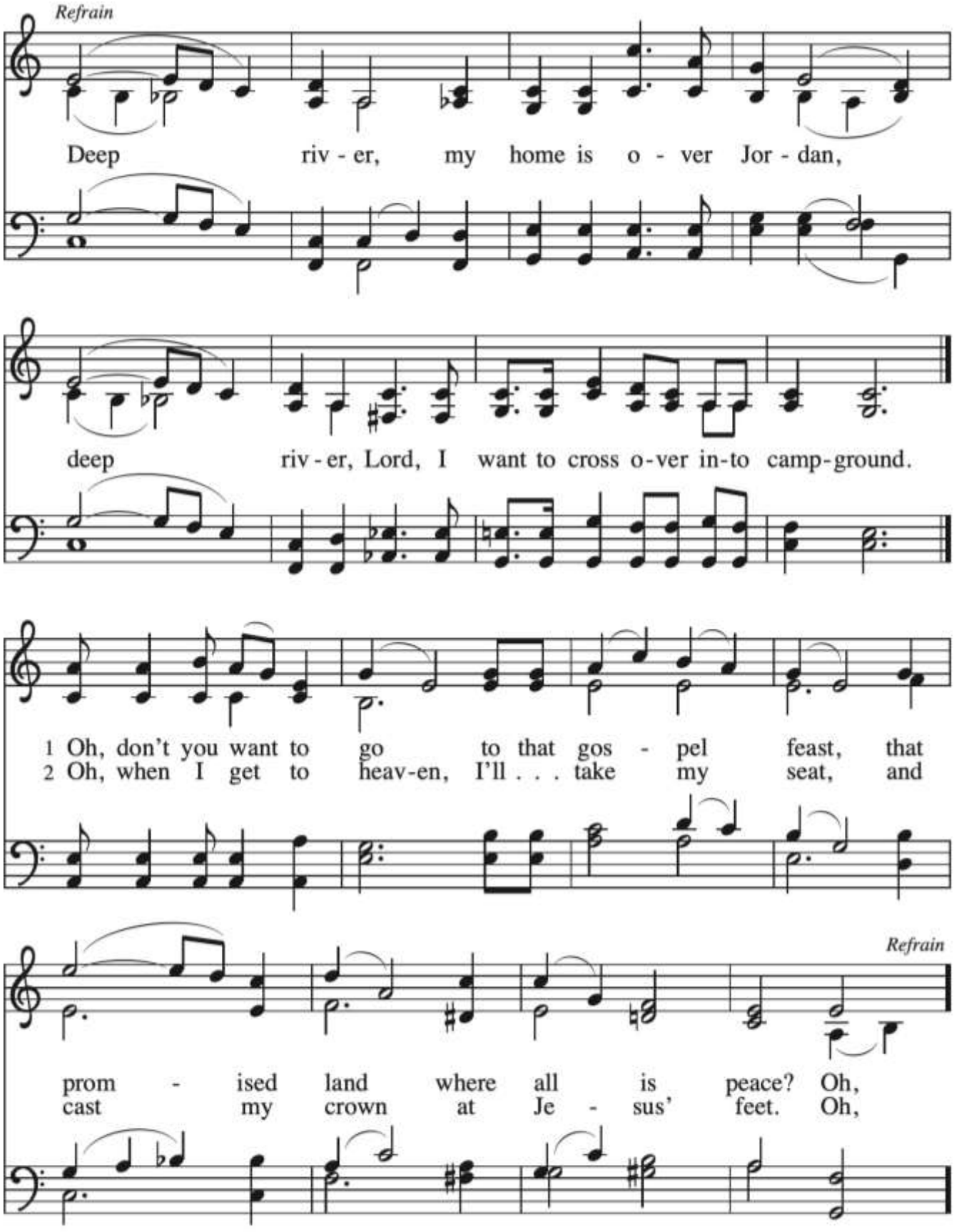
The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: ***Lamb of God***



When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul) **HYMN# 785**
Deep River



Text: African American spiritual
Music: DEEP RIVER, African American spiritual

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

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
C: **Amen**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

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: ***Soon and Very Soon*** **HYMN# 439**

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Soon and Very Soon* Andraé Crouch
Arr. Jack Schrader

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by the
Schuessler Family in celebration of Dawn and Lindsay Schuessler's birthdays



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Carleen Reinhardt
USHERS	Adam Rentchler, Colleen and Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Becky Rentchler
LECTOR	Marilyn McGuire
CANTOR	Ruthie Grollman
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt
ACOLYTE	Fynn Wolfsberger
DONUT DRIVER	Rentchler family
FELLOWSHIP HOST	*Needed*
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Schaller
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson: healing at home
Kate Hartz: courage and trust
Barb Johnson: continued healing and increased mobility
Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace
Sharon Salerno: healing and strength
Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke

Request for:	***On Behalf of:***
Lisa McL (healing)	*Jean Chouquette*
Arlis (comfort and hope); Barbara (bravery)	*Jenson Family*
Country on upcoming midterm elections. Melissa (employment). Continued health of parents. Farmers of the world.	*Cat Leonard*
Nephew, Peter, beginning rehab work in Wisconsin. Pray for regaining movement and body sensations.	*Carleen Reinhart*
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Colombia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); Sonya and Sean (healing and strength); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	*Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton*
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (employment), Dale (food, employment), Russel and Tanya (food, health, housing)	*Social Action*

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

Instead of November/December Big Asks Gethsemane will again participate in the **St. Anthony's Christmas Cheer program**, formerly known as Adopt-a-family. We will be adopting 35 people this year! Sign up will be available during Fellowship on November 22, or online via a link in the enews. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to Gethsemane by Dec 13.

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce,** preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry. We are also looking for someone who could either regularly purchase some items from Aldi or receive a delivery at their home and bring it to Gethsemane.

It's time for **Isaiah 58's Buy-A-Bird Holiday Fundraiser**! Gethsemane has committed to providing 175 boxes/bags of granulated sugar (4 lbs or less). The deadline is **TODAY!** Help sweeten someone's Thanksgiving!

ACT

Thanks to all who assembled **blessing bags** with winter items (hats, gloves, water, snacks, etc.) last week. The blessing bags are available in the Narthex for you to pick up and distribute to those you see who are in need

Fellowship Hosts Wanted! Please sign up in the kitchen to help "host fellowship," which just entails some light clean-up afterwards (9:45 – 10 am). We've made clean-up even easier during our trial one service time this fall, by using paper cups instead of washing mugs.

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or Betsy Bartholomew, or check the box on the weekly attendance insert.

Follow-up Single Service Surveys are available starting today. Please share your feedback about the trial period (September – December) of 10 am Worship, by November 15. Please only complete one survey per person.

Share your voice! Send December newsletter items to Gretchen by November 29.

JOIN

Today during Worship, we will welcome new members to Gethsemane: Mary Eden, Patricia Horn, Luke Terrell and Andi Schmid and Conrad and Camille

The **November Women's Lunch** is Monday, Nov. 30, 11:30 am at Maggie O'Briens in Sunset Hills. Final Answer! RSVP to Cindy Fenton by Nov. 27.

Gretchen and Eve are organizing **Thanksgiving meals** for our home-bound members and others in need. Look for the sign-up in the enews to provide a side dish and/or help prep or deliver meals. If you would like a meal delivered to you or know someone who would, please contact Eve or Gretchen to be put on the list!

Ponies and sheep and baby Jesus, Oh My! Our Live Nativity is only a few weeks away on **December 5, 4-5 pm**. Save the date!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
November 8 - 15, 2026

11/8 Sunday ***New Member Welcome***	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am**	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Sunday School and Faith Village **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube**
11/9 Monday	6-7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
11/10 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
11/11 Wednesday	1–3 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
11/15 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am**	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee (Bridge Bread) Sunday School and Faith Village **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube**

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	**Time**	**Event**
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tues, Nov 17	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sun, Nov 22	9 am	Stewardship Breakfast
Wed, Nov 25	6-7 pm	Thanksgiving dishes drop-off
Thurs, Nov 26	All day	Thanksgiving Day
Sun, Nov 29	10 am	First Sunday of Advent
Mon, Nov 30	11:30 am	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon
Sat, Dec 5	4-5 pm	Live Nativity!
Sat, Dec 19	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Parent's Day Out AND Children's Christmas program rehearsal
Sun, Dec 20	10 am	Children's Christmas Program during Worship
Thurs, Dec 24	4 pm	Christmas Eve Worship

Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Affirmation of Welcome

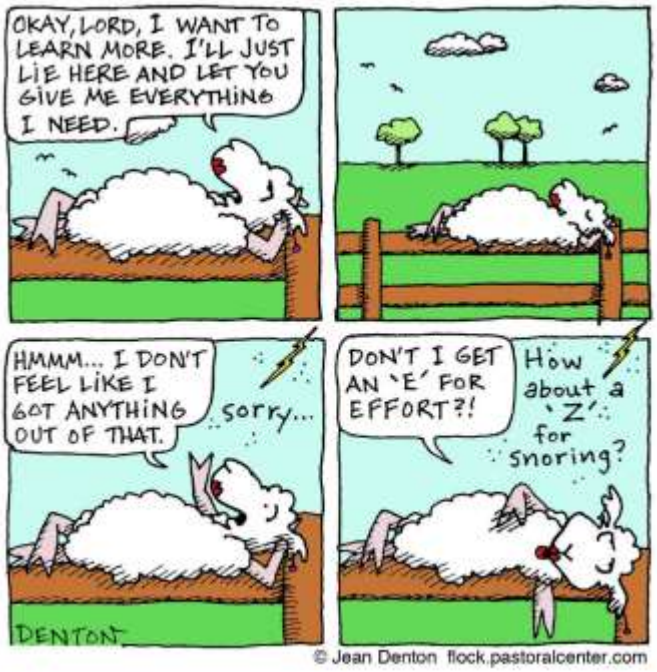
Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace…

People of any race or ethnicity…
People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity…
People of any age…
People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys…
People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered…
People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation…
People with a variety of political perspectives…
People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record…
People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or unhoused…
People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities…
People of differing educational backgrounds…
People of any socio-economic condition…
People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

Sunday Funnies: The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.



Scan here to donate to Gethsemane's African American Spiritual Reparation project.

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