Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Pentecost 24

November 8, 2026

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

Sunday 9am Worship

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

Welcome to our Worship Center

God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament.
As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Worship Focus



The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready. "**The Beginning of the End**" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Our path through the last weeks of the church year is:

Oct 4	Speak Truth to Power	Nov 1	Focus on the Future
Oct 11	Invite the Unworthy	**Nov 8**	**Watch for the Final Events**
Oct 18	Give to God What is God's	Nov 15	Put Your Affairs in Order
Oct 25	Stay Steadfast	Nov 22	Hope for the best

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep. As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

Visitor Information

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time.

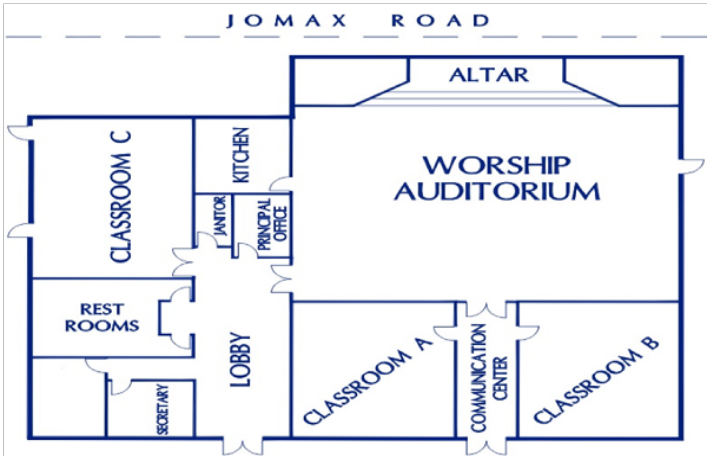
Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

Scanning this QR Code

--OR--

Emailing us at church. secretary@crossofglory.org

Church Map

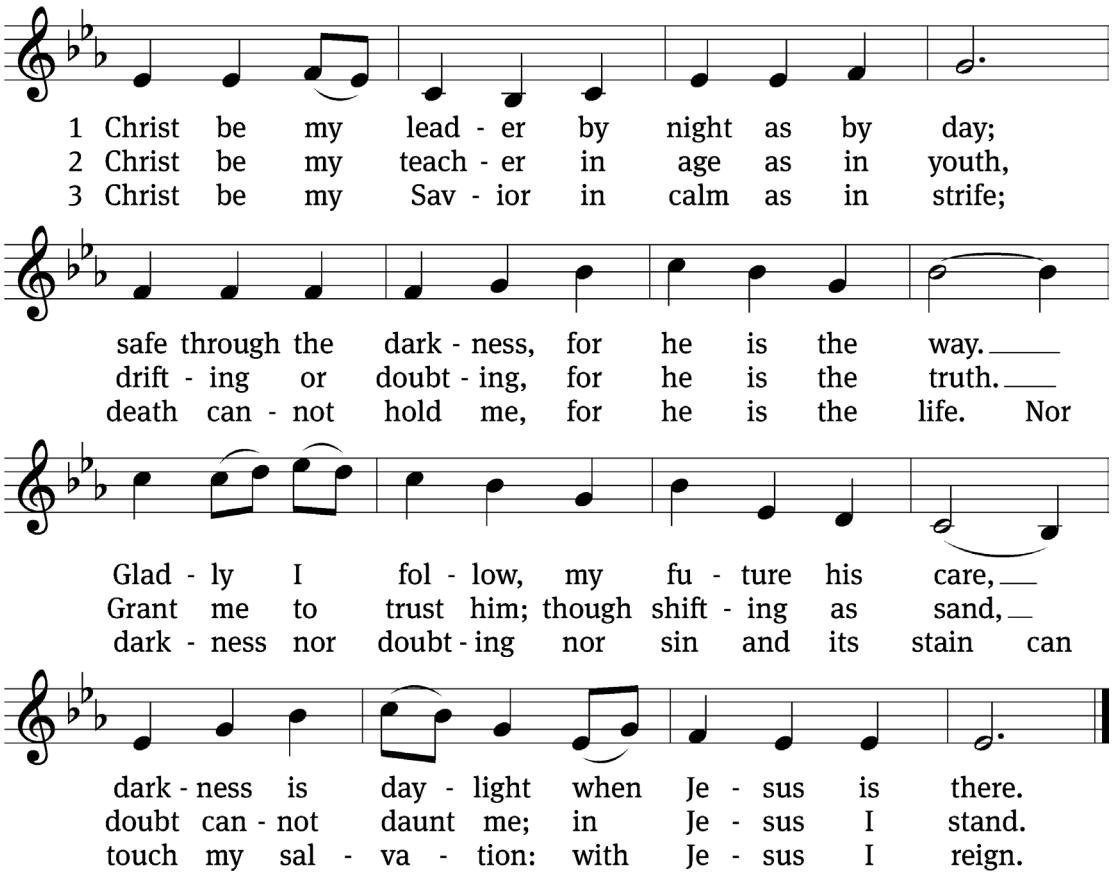


Families with Children

- **Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.**
- **Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult in Classroom A.**
- **Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!**

Opening Hymn: Christ Be My Leader

CWH 518



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: Irish Text: © 1964, ren. 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain



Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

We follow the advice of the Apostle Paul to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

(Colossians 3:16)

We Approach God

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.

C: There is no place we can flee from your sight.

M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.

C: We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.

M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. We do not deserve leniency. The only thing we possess is our guilt.

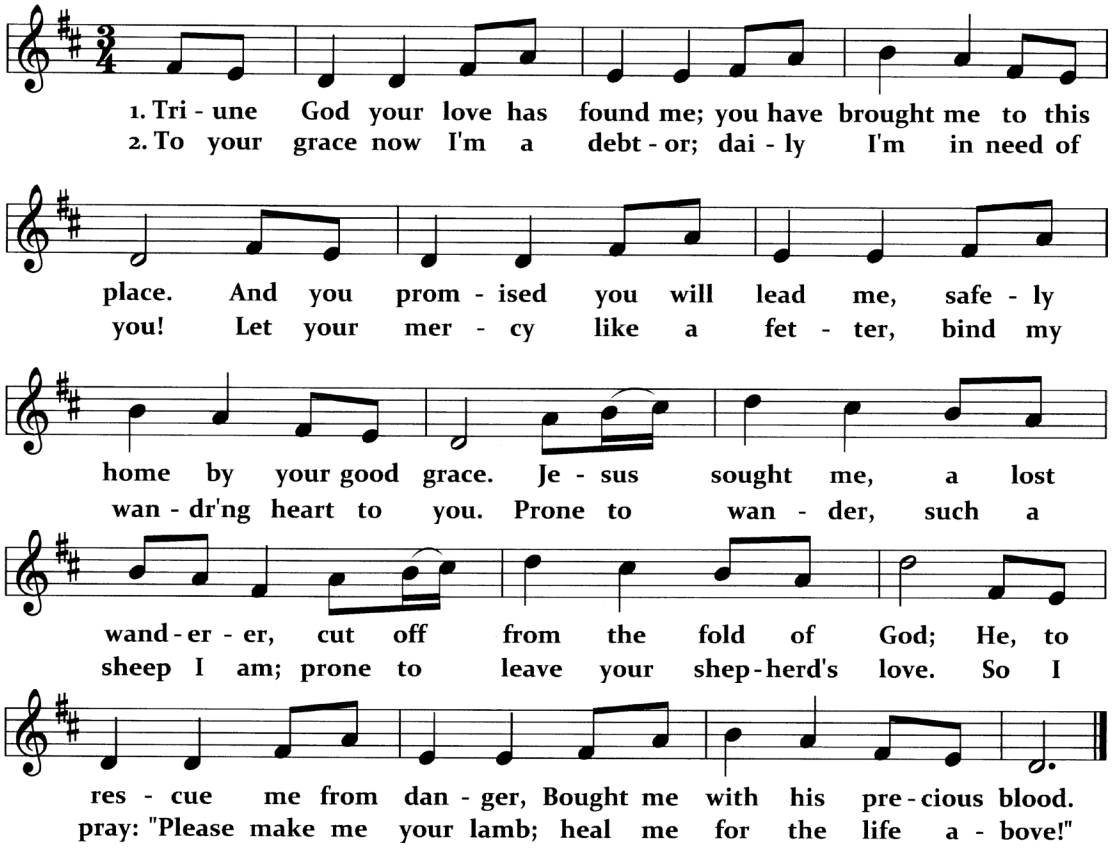
C: O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can speak your name only because you are the God of grace. Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. Because you have gathered all the lost, we plead: "Be our Shepherd."



We are able to approach the eternal, almighty Triune God because he is the God of undeserved love—the God of Grace.

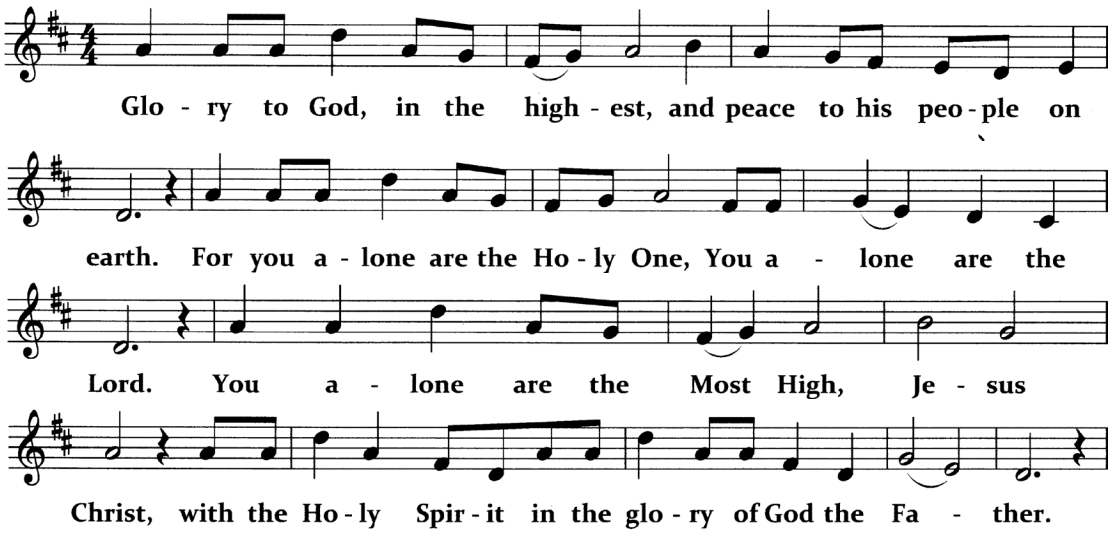
We confess our sins to God confident he will forgive us because he has promised, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

(Sung by Congregation)
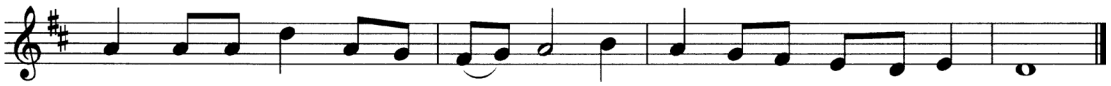


M: The Triune God knows our needs. He remembers that we are dust. He gloried in doing for us what we do not deserve. Before we existed, the Father sent his one and only Son to trade places with a world of sinners. In the fullness of time, Jesus packaged his honor in humility and was born into our world. By His flawless life and innocent death, he ransomed the world from sin, Satan and damnation. The Holy Spirit raised him back to life to guarantee that we who trust these truths are God's children and heirs of heaven. Amen.

(Sung by Congregation)





This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because our debt of sin was paid by Jesus, our victorious Savior.



Catechism Review: Third & Fourth Commandments (Spoken Responsively)

M: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

M: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.
What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.



For five centuries, Martin Luther's Small Catechism has served as the basic instruction book for the church. It directs us to God's Word and points to the only source for spiritual life, the Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. As lifelong students of the Catechism, we review these important truths from God's Word as we continue to grow in a deep appreciation for all that Jesus has done as our Savior.

Prayer of the Day (Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.

First Reading Isaiah 52:1–6

[1]Wake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.
Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, you holy city,
for never again will the uncircumcised
and the unclean enter you.
[2]Shake off the dust. Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.
Loosen the chains from your neck,
you captive daughter of Zion.
[3]Yes, this is what the Lord says. You were sold for nothing,
and you will be redeemed without money.
[4]Yes, this is what the Lord God says.
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while. Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.
[5]Now what do I have here? declares the Lord.
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the Lord.
My name is continually despised all day.
[6]Therefore my people will know my name.
So on that day they will know that I am the one—
the one who is saying, "Here I am!"



The prophet cries "Awake!" to people sleepwalking through life.



The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument."

Psalm 90 (Spoken Responsively)

M: Lord, you have been our dwelling place
C: throughout all generations.
M: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,
C: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
M: You turn people back to dust,
C: saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
M: A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,
C: or like a watch in the night.
M: Teach us to number our days,
C: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
C: establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

The Children's Message (All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)



Be watchful for Jesus to return. Live as children of light.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

[1]Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write
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 people are saying, "Peace and
security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on
a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. [4]But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day could take you by surprise like
a thief, [5]for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not
belong to the night or the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep like
everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

[7]To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get
drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us, so
that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.
[11]Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as
you are also doing.



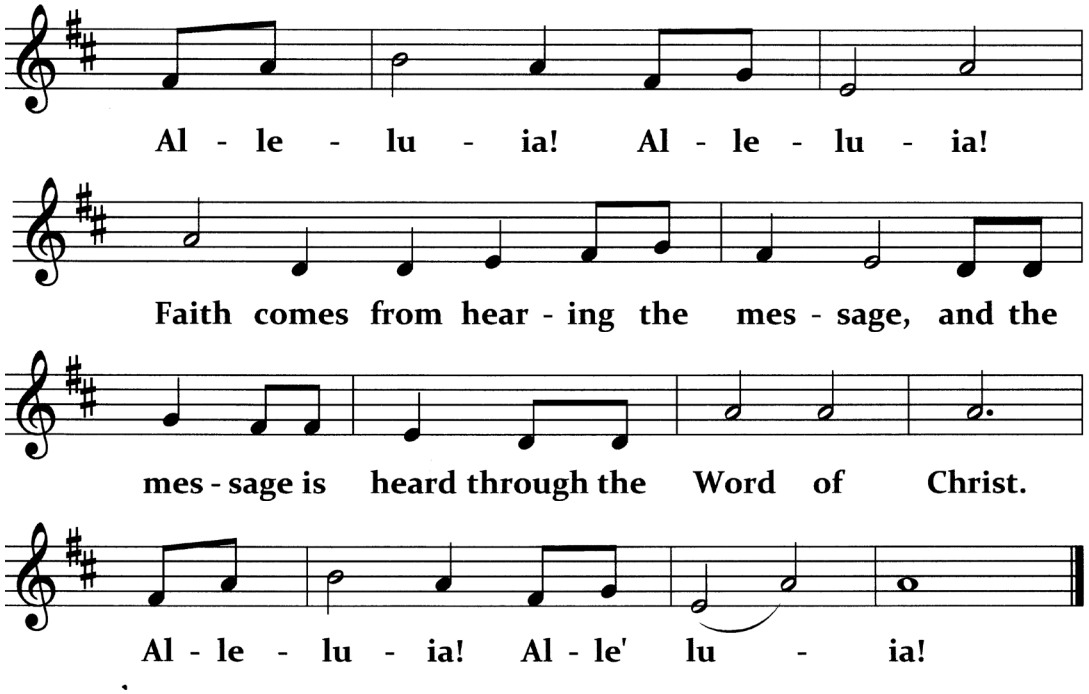
A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.

The sung response is taken from Romans 10:17.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 24:42
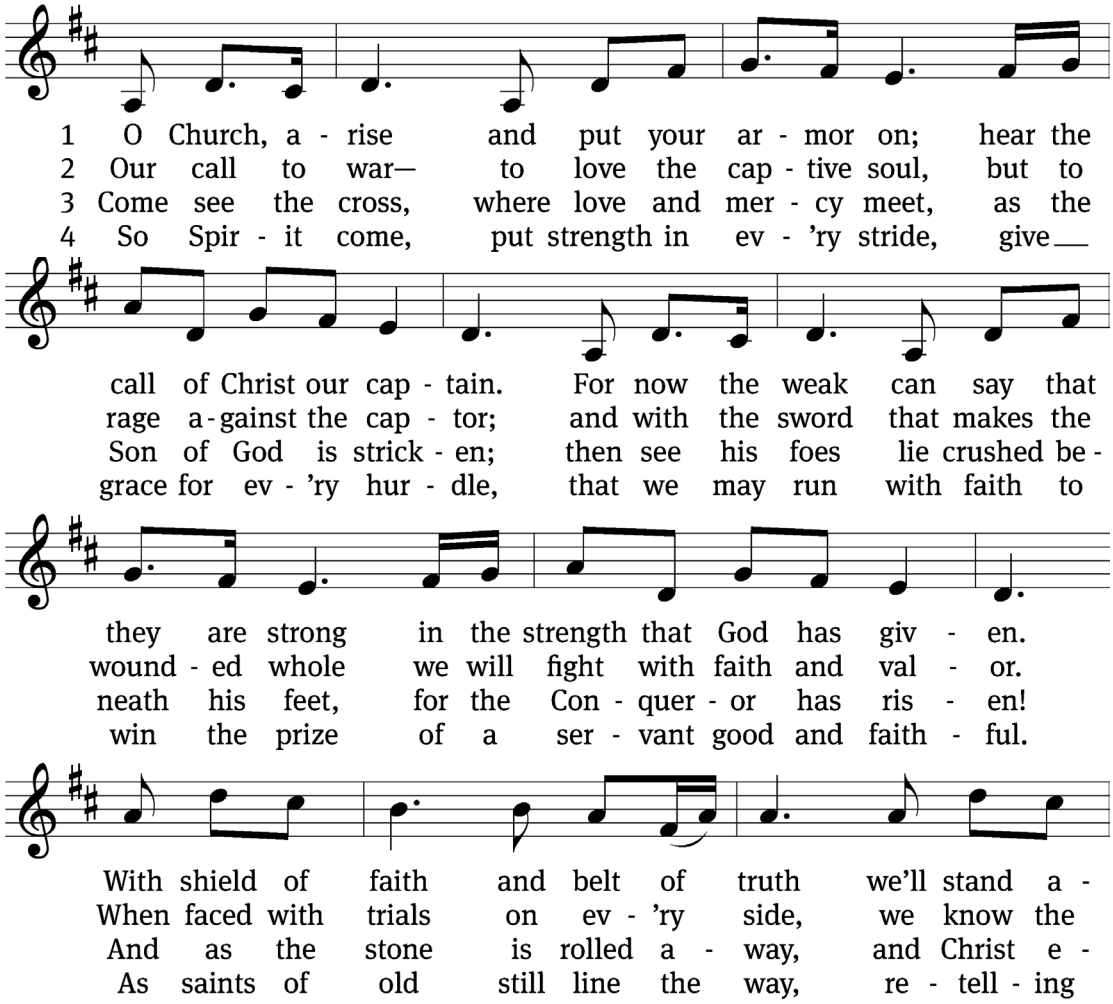
M: Alleluia. So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation Response



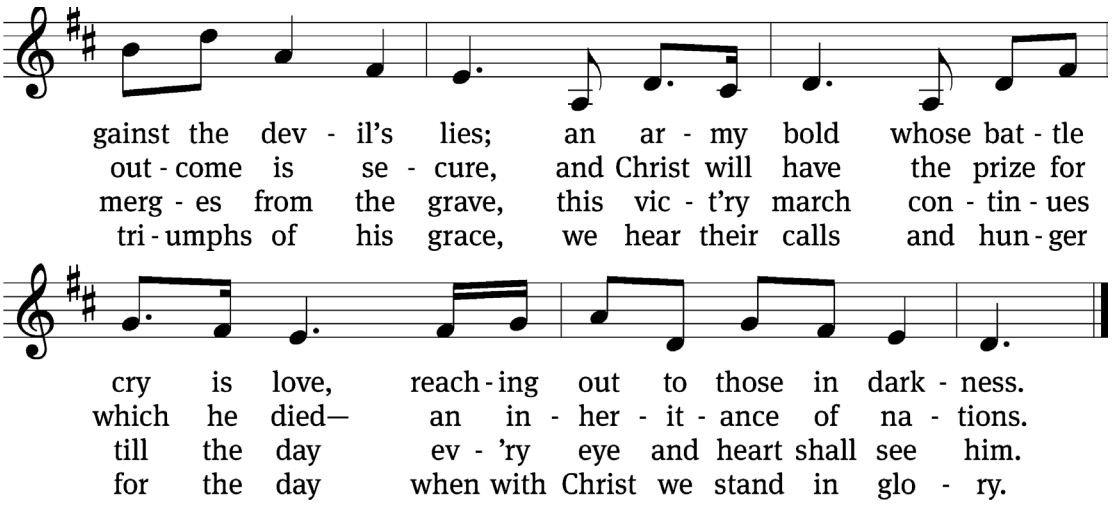
Hymn of the Day: O Church, Arise

CWH 870





This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.



Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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Sermon

Matthew 25:1–13

In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

[1]"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who
took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them
were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish ones took their
lamps, they did not take any oil with them; [4]but the wise took oil in
their containers with their lamps. [5]While the bridegroom was delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep. [6]But at midnight there was a
shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' [7]Then all those
virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish ones said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' [9]But
the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you.
Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' [10]But
while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who
were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door
was shut. [11]Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us
in.' [12]But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' [13]Therefore,
keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.



After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)
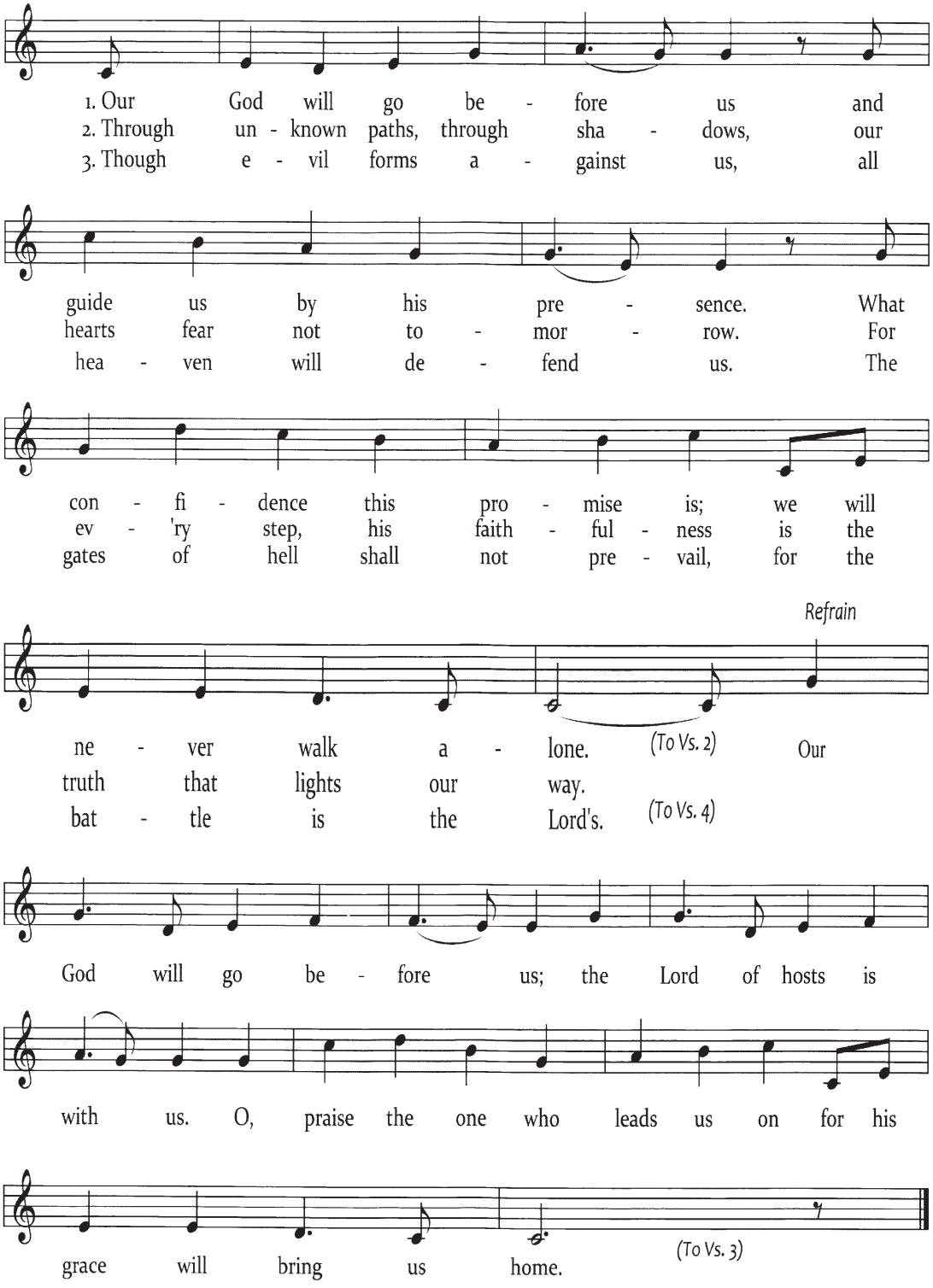
The Apostles' Creed, developed over hundreds of years in the early Christian church, is a brief and simple statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
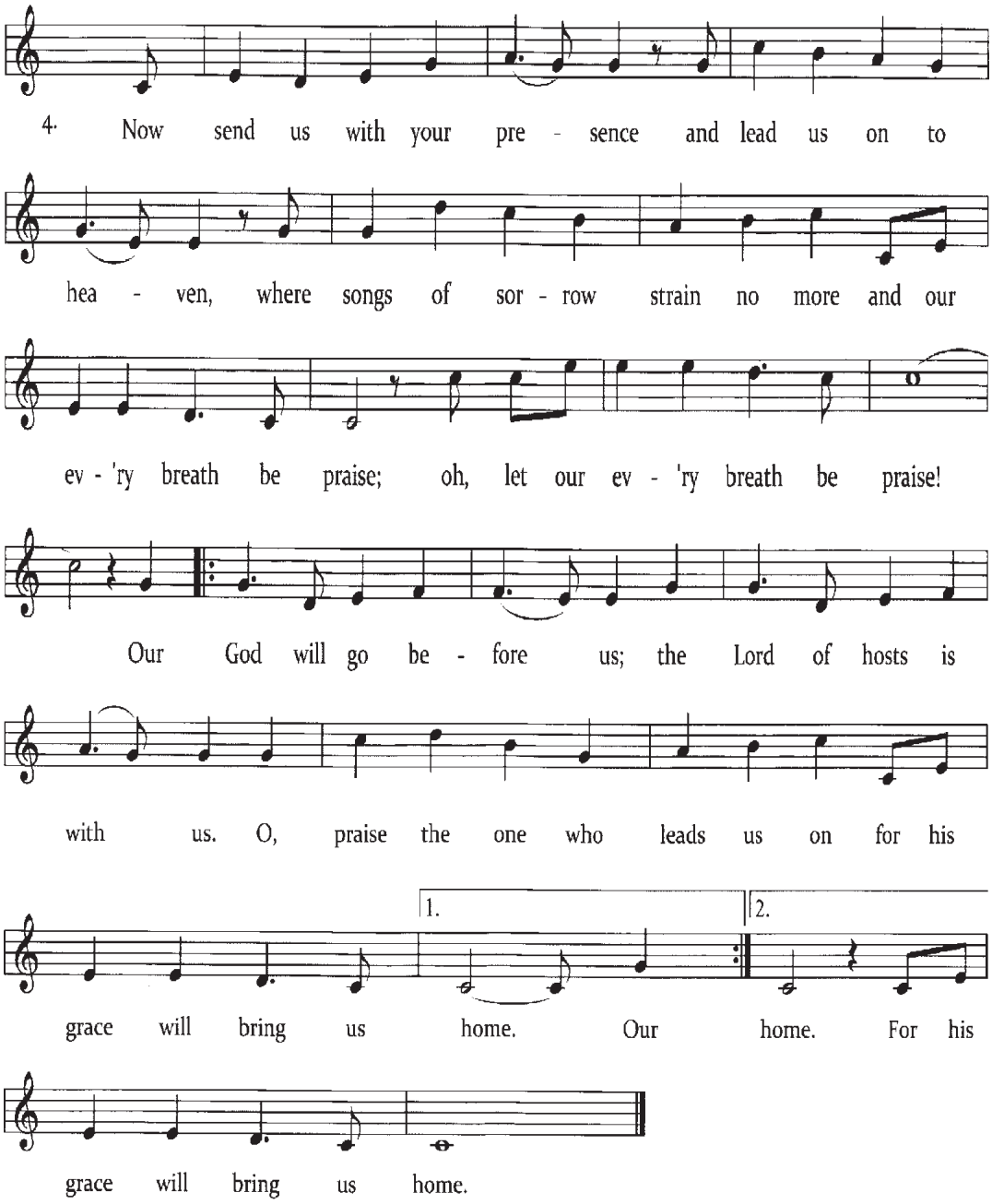
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Song of the Season





This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.



Offering: The gifts of Gods people are a response to God's blessings. If God has moved you to thank him in this way, you can use this QR code to give an offering.

Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

If you brought a monetary gift today for the work of the church, please place your offering in the receptacle at one of the two entrances to the sanctuary either before or after the service.

We speak to God as our Father as Jesus taught us.

(Matthew 6)

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

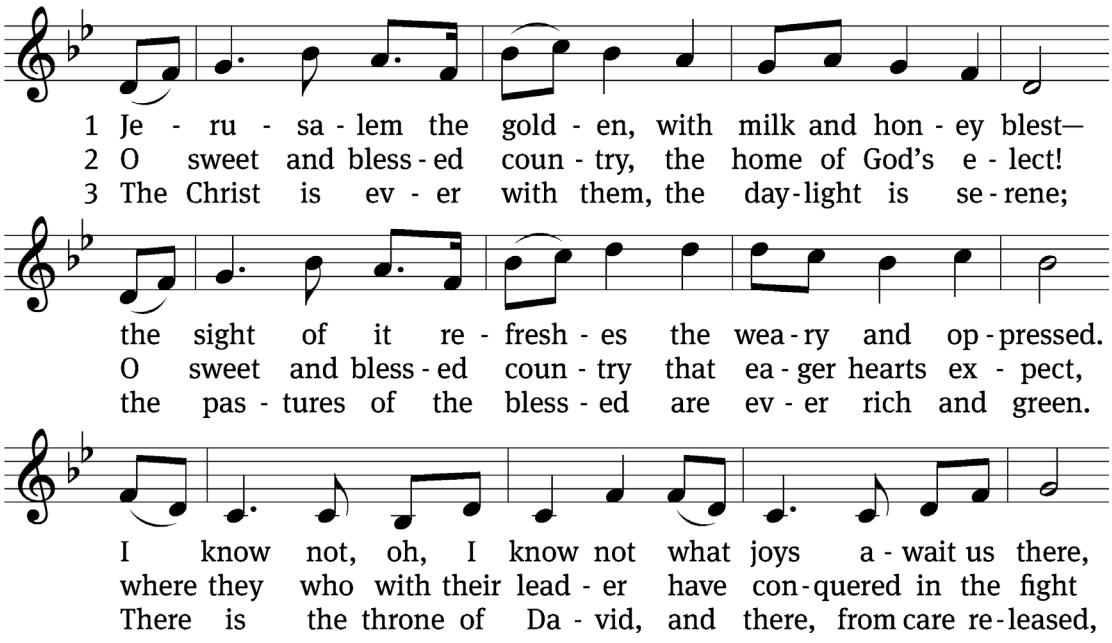
C: Amen.
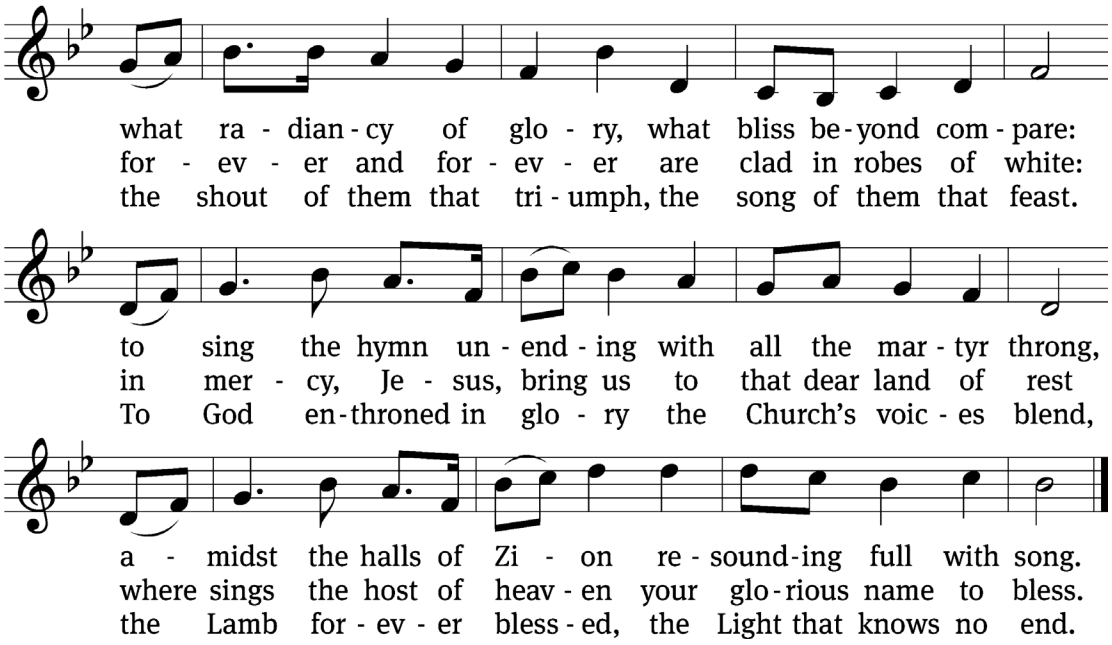


The Aaronic Blessing is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.

Closing Hymn: Jerusalem the Golden

CWH 889





Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text and tune: Public domain

Worship Volunteers	November 8th	November 15th	November 22nd
Counters	Karin Hansen Becky Jahns	Bob Decker Len Collyard	Mike Ryan Nick Nicholai
Communion		Dawn	
Greeters	Henkel Family	Jennifer Lee Alyson Nancy Murphy	Pentz Family
Ushers	Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit Adam Pentz	Cody Hall Timothy Hall David Conklin	Carl Deines Matthew Deines
Sunday Refreshments	Stacy Cornell Diana Piepenbrink Liz Henkel	Jennifer Lee Rachel Plitzuweit	Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann
A/V	Kelly Simpson Bentley Ryan	Emily Proeber Gus Koutia	Elise Plitzuweit Chris Patterson

Acknowledgments

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Cross of Glory
Lutheran Church & School

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

10111 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

The continuing purpose of this congregation as a gathering of Christians is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.