

# Consecration Sunday



**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
November 19, 2023 | 10:30 AM



**All are welcome at Saint John's** regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

**Children are welcome.** We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

**To assist you during worship:** Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

**Offerings:** St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

**Assisted Listening:** To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST\_JOHNS\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



## **Ministers: The People of Saint John's**

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto:wk154linda@gmail.com)

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

## Prayer Before Worship

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2*

## Gathering

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

**ELW** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

**ACS** *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

**PRELUDE** Nun Danket Alle Gott, BWV 657

J.S. Bach

## WELCOME

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

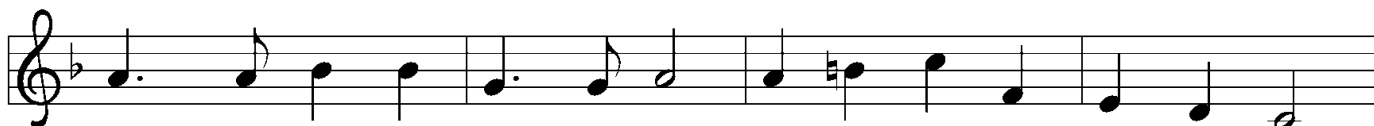
**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

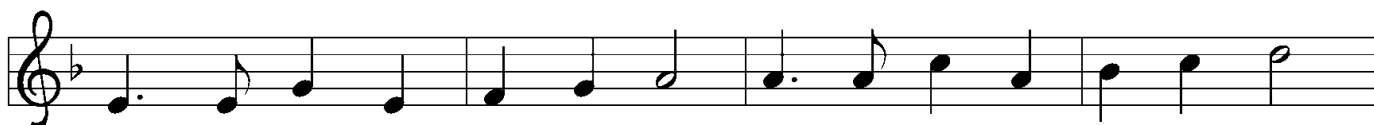
# GATHERING HYMN ELW 693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



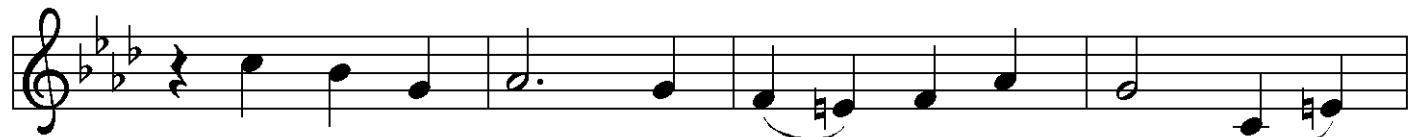
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

## 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.**

### Word

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

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING Deuteronomy 8:7–18

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Healy Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.

By God the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness, the deserts bloom and spring.

The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them with his fullness, all things with large increase;

God crowns the year with blessing, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,

the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.

Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,

and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

– John S.B. Monsell

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>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!

<sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All sing the acclamation; Choir sings the proper verse.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V. Abide in me as I a- | bide in you;\*  
those who abide in me | bear much fruit. (John 15:4, 5)

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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.’ <sup>21</sup>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.’ <sup>22</sup>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.’ <sup>23</sup>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.’ <sup>24</sup>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 seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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.**



*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

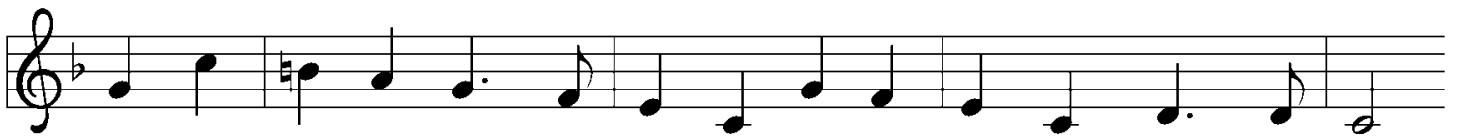
The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

*Please stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,  
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;  
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;  
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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## **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole Church, 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 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Alex, Allie, Lucas, and Mason Rodriguez

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.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Response:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Congregation President:* Let us welcome these new members to our community of faith.

**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.**

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

O God, we pray for your holy catholic church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, pastors, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

## **PEACE**

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

*Please be seated.*

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION**

### **DEDICATION OF 2024 PLEDGES**

We come this day to dedicate our intentions to be faithful stewards of all that God has given us: our time, our talents, and our treasure. We have been blessed to be a blessing. We respond to a generous and loving God through our own generosity.

Let us commit our hearts and minds to God.

**Center us in routines that form our faith. Help us to be faithful in weekly worship, in daily prayer, and in study of the holy scriptures.**

Let us commit our souls and strength to God.

**Renew us in the mission of the church. Invigorate us to care for our neighbors in need.**

**Embolden us for striving for justice and peace.**

Let us commit our whole selves to God and our neighbors.

**Shape in us generous hearts. Take our time, our talents, and treasure for the work of your kingdom. Make us joyful givers and faithful stewards.**

*All are invited to come forward to place their 2024 pledge commitments and their offerings.*

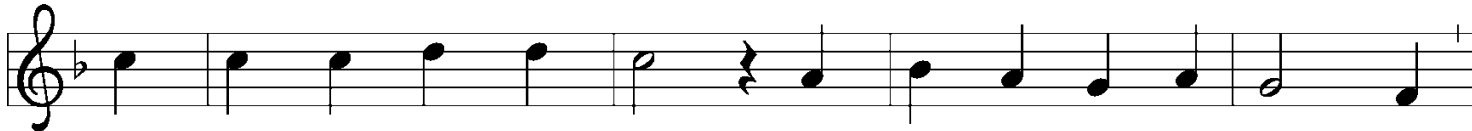
*Come down the center aisle, returning by the side aisles. Please join in singing the Offering Hymn.*

*You may make an online contribution by scanning this code:*

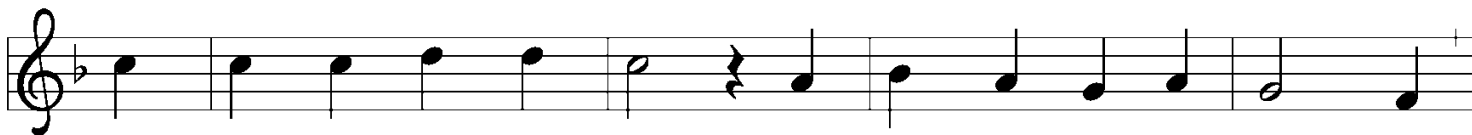


*Please stand.*

## OFFERING HYMN ELW 840 Now Thank We All Our God



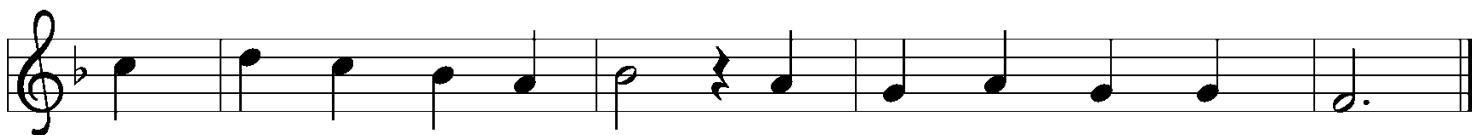
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

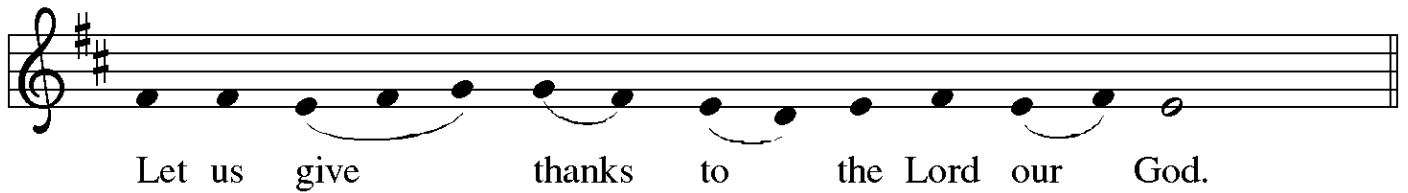
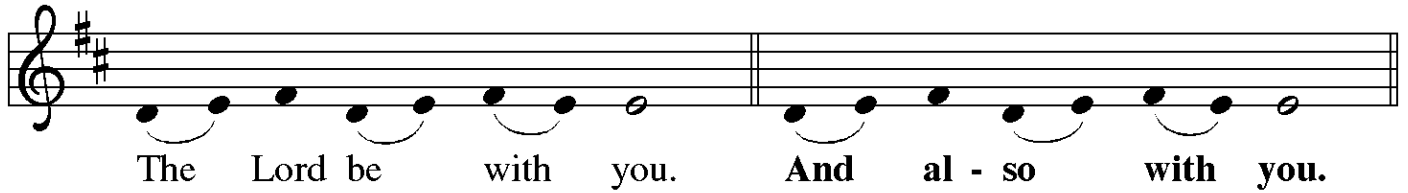
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom. We know that all we have is received from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship be a witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

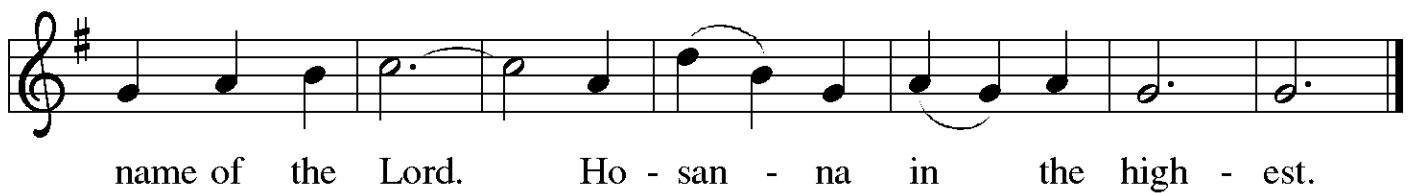
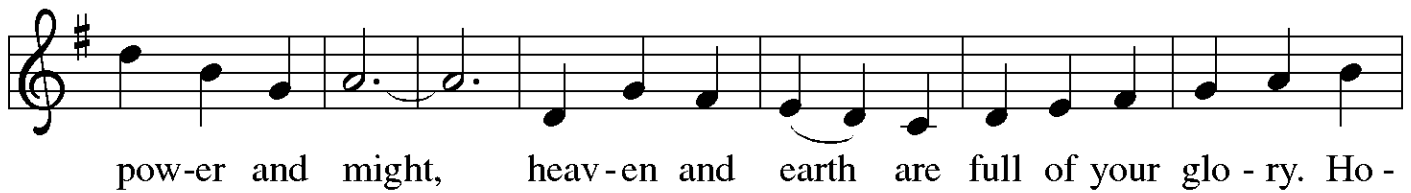
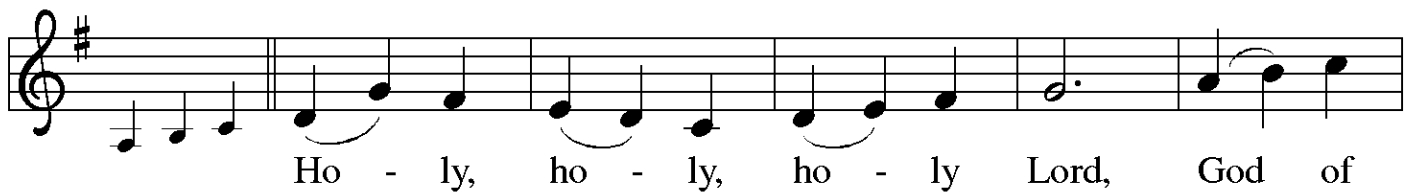
## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



### PROPER PREFACE



# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

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

*Please be seated.*

## RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.*

*The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.*

*Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

*Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.*

*All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.*

*If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 679 For the Fruit of All Creation



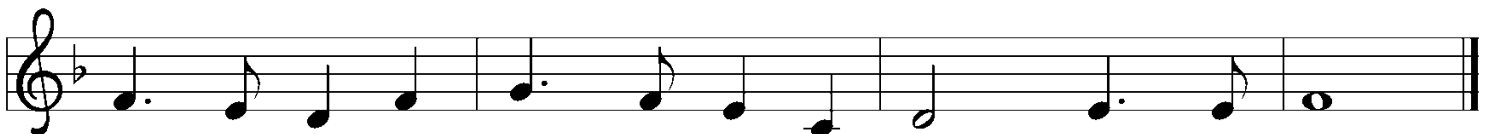
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional

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*Please stand.*

## **BLESSING**

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

## **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



## Sending

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

### BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God—Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

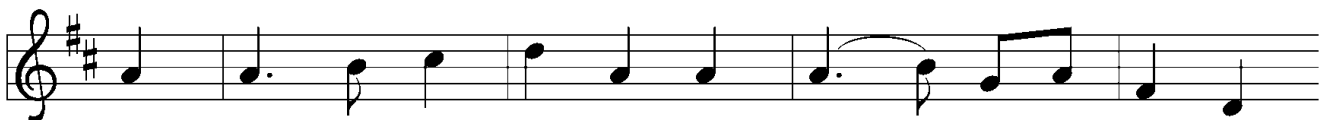
### SENDING HYMN ELW 870 We Praise You, O God



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE Nun Danket Alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**November 19, 2023**

**Today's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God.

**We welcome new members**, The Rodriguez family, **TODAY** at the 10:30 service.

**The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 22–27** for Thanksgiving.

**Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM.** All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

**Family Promise Collection due TODAY:** We are collecting **at least 100** cleaning items to support homeless families. Bring in items such as: disinfectant wipes/spray, dish soap, sponges, toilet cleaner, kitchen spray cleaner, bathroom cleaners, and window cleaner.

**Consecration Sunday, TODAY:** God has blessed us to be a blessing and every member is asked to prayerfully consider how they will commit to the work of this congregation and fill out a pledge card today.

**Church Thanksgiving, TODAY after the 10:30 service:** We will provide the turkey, you bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

**We are having a Christmas Market on December 2** from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** to support the Bethlehem Builds affordable housing project. See the weekly email for more information and contact Jane Bowman if you are interested.

**Christmas decorations:** Recommended donations of \$25-\$100 are appreciated, but we will receive donations of any amount. To be included in the Christmas worship bulletins, dedications must be received in the church office by **December 10**. Sign up in the rear entryway.

**Looking Ahead: Lessons & Carols & St. John's Anniversary, December 10 at 4:00 PM.** This moving service combines readings with choral music and congregational carols. Following the service, we will have a festive reception celebrating the 115th anniversary of the founding of our congregation with Bishop Tracie Bartholomew as our special guest.

**Thursday Meals for Summit Warm Hearts:** Every other Thursday we are providing dinner for our Warm Hearts guests. Sign up to provide meals, sides, salads, or desserts in the weekly email.

**Seasonal Giving: LSMNJ Gifts:** Pick up a card in the narthex to provide a Christmas present for a child in need, due **December 10**, GRACE collection of spices, bouillon, and cooking oil, due **December 10**, St. Stephan's-Grace **Mitten Tree** collection of new or gently-used mittens, hats, scarves, or other winter apparel due **December 17**.

**BRIDGES Run Collection:** We are collecting supplies for 200 sustainable lunches to be assembled on **December 17**. Sign up in the narthex or in the weekly email.

**BRIDGES Run:** We will be handing out lunches on **December 23**. If you wish to participate, please sign up in the weekly email.





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**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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