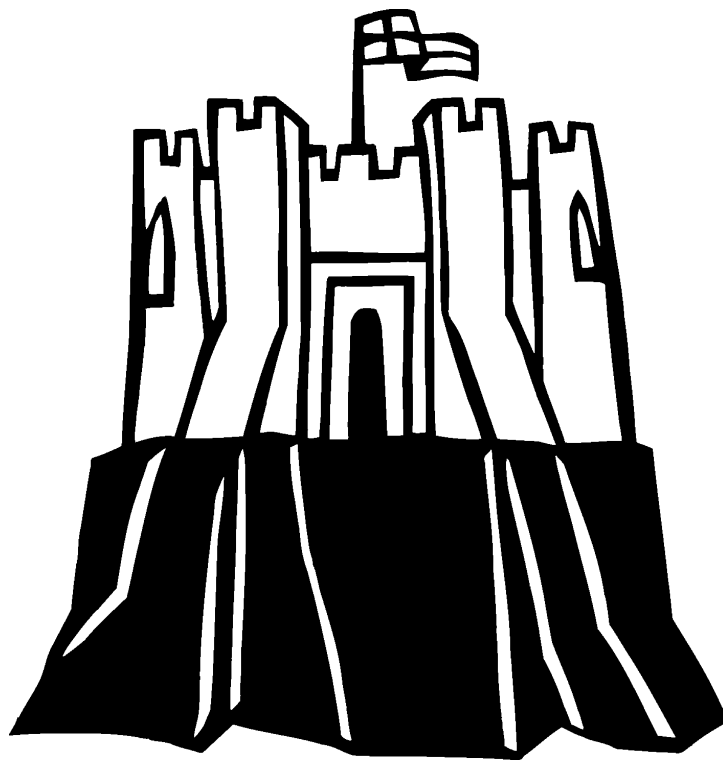


# **New Jerusalem Lutheran Church**



**Reformation Sunday  
October 29, 2023  
Worship Service**

*Announcements for October 29, 2023*

**PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY**

*\*\*new names added this week (NJLC connection)*

**Prayer Requests:** \*\*Lisa Loeffler (NJLC member); Wayne Dunkley (NJLC member); Mack and Helen Keister (NJLC members); Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox);

**WELCA MEETING:** Women of the ELCA will be meeting on Saturday, November 4, in the church parlor. All women are welcome.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** Remember to change your clocks as we “fall back” one hour Sunday morning.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, November 5:** We will lift in prayer the loved ones who have passed into God’s Kingdom Triumphant this past year. If you have a name(s) to be included, let the church office know by **November 1**. Anyone who wants to bring a picture(s) to place in the church windows is invited to do so.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATION SUNDAY:** Sunday, November 5, is food donation day at New Jerusalem. Please bring a bag or can of food, a cash donation or grocery gift card (Weis, Giant). The donated food will be collected during the children’s message. Bags are available at the back of the church.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARBARA LAMM:** Barbara will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 14. Her daughter has asked that Barbara’s NJLC family surprise her with a flood of birthday cards for this milestone birthday. The address is 6633 McDonald Avenue #18, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

**A BIG THANK YOU FROM ANN SHOMAKER:** I would like to thank Joel, Soledad, Linda, Diana, and Wanda for their visit to see me at The Legacy in Staunton. I miss my New Jerusalem family and would enjoy a visit at anytime. Please come to visit. Ann Shomaker

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSICIANS:** We plan special music throughout the season of Advent and Christmas Eve as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior! If you enjoy sharing your instrumental or vocal talents (either as a soloist or part of the special choir), reach out to Mark Fletcher or Sherry Whipple. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Rehearsals will begin soon.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Christmas poinsettias will be ordered from C M Bloomers Florist (\$12.75 each). All Christmas Poinsettia order forms must be turned in to the church office or submitted online (<https://tinyurl.com/NJLC-Poinsettias>) by **Sunday, November 26**. Please include: your name, name of person(s) being remembered/honored, the number of poinsettias and which bloom colors (red, white or pink) are requested. Payments may be made through NJLC’s online giving portal, placed in the weekly offering or given/mailed to the church office. Be sure to indicate “poinsettias” on the memo line of your check.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 5: All Saints Sunday  
November 12: Adult Bible Study  
November 19: Consecration Sunday

December 2: Hanging of the Greens  
December 3: Annual Congregation Meeting  
December 10: Washington Sangerbund Concert  
December 17: Cookie Decorating

**LIFTERS FOR NOVEMBER:**

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
November 5	Amanda Zlato	George
November 12	Bill George	Tritapoe
November 19	Toni Chancellor-Adams	Karmen & Stillman
November 26	Joyce Hoopengardner	TBD



# New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville, Virginia 20180

www.njlclovettsville.org

Church Office  
Pastor

540-822-5576  
(703) 955-6714

officenjlc@gmail.com  
pastor.njlc@gmail.com

**OUR MISSION:** *Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.*

**OUR VISION:** *NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.*

## WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

*A few items of note to help you in your time here today:*

**MASKS** — Masks are optional for worship and events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.

**NEWCOMERS** — Visitors are always welcome and we invite you to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a pew card from the pew rack in front of you.

**COMMUNION** — Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. As you come to the top of the center aisle, the pastor will place a wafer in your hands and invite you to step to the side to take an individual cup of wine (first tray) or grape juice (second). Please receive and then discard cups in the receptacle along the altar rail. If you cannot come forward, communion can be brought to you after all have communed at the front.

**CHILDREN** — We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. We have a Cherub's Corner in the fellowship hall downstairs with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers. Should you have the need/desire to utilize our staffed Sunday Morning Nursery, it is located in the end room of the education building.

**HANDICAP ACCESSABILITY** — Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.

We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit!



The flowers on the altar given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frances Edmondson by SP, Marilyn, Rich, and Ali Edmondson

The pumpkins and gourds on the altar and in the windows are provided by Wegmeyer Farms - Tyler and Harriet Wegmeyer.



## Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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## GATHERING

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### READER FOR TODAY

Mike Zapf

### PRELUDE

"Prelude in C Major"

Mark A. Fletcher

By J.S. Bach

*We prepare our hearts and minds for worship during the prelude.*

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

**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 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

"Lift High the Cross"  
(see music on next page)

ELW 660

### 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.**

# Lift High the Cross

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

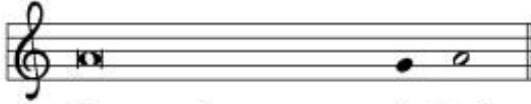
*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956  
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
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# Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



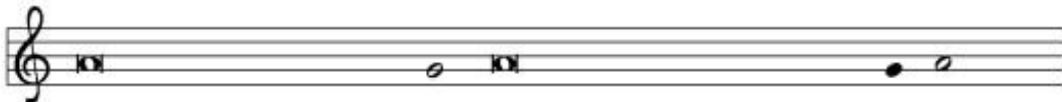
**☪** Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**☪** Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**☪** Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **☪** Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **☪** A - men.

# Canticle of Praise

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

**People: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

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## THE WORD

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### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Jeremiah...

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of Romans ...

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness,



because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## GOSPEL READING

John 8: 31-36

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

**Children's Message**

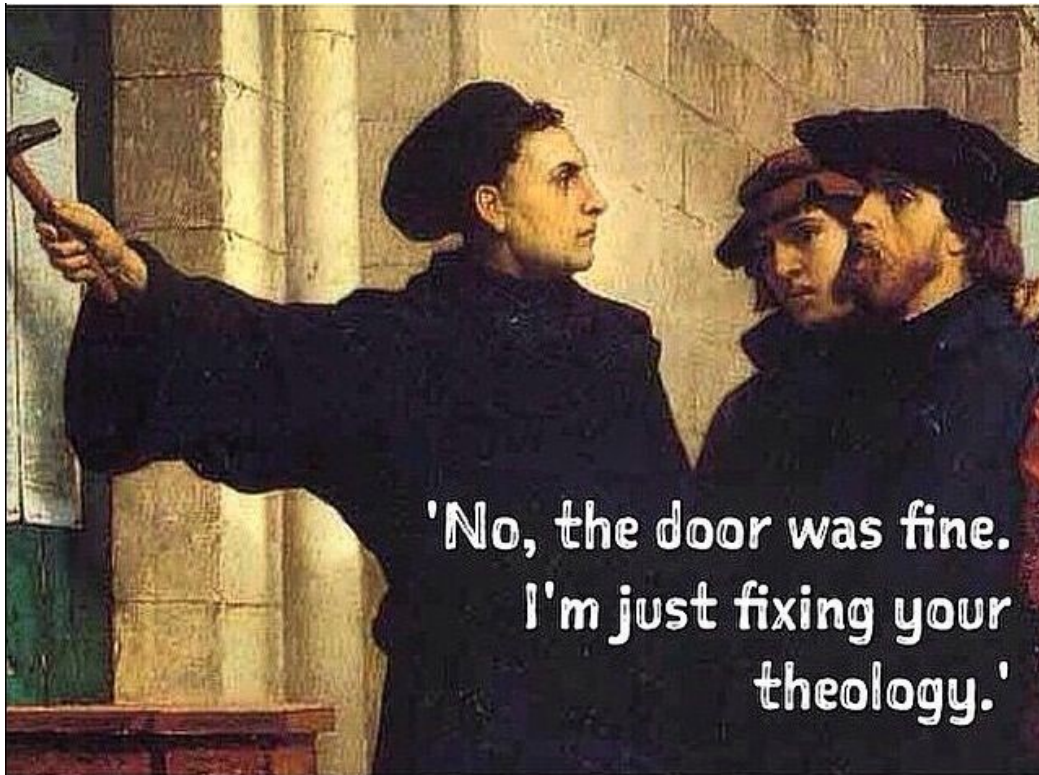
Pastor Phil Carl

## **THE PRAYGROUND**

*Children are invited to The Prayground for Bible lessons, activities, crafts and prayers.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Phil Carl



*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**  
*(see music on next page)*

ELW 504

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## **NICENE CREED**

**People: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reader: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader: God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. We are especially aware of the destruction brought to Mexico by Hurricane Otis this week. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader: God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict as tensions grow in the mid-East. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader; God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially Lisa Loeffler, Wayne Dunkley, Mack and Helen Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock*). Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader: God our protector, be with the families of those who died in the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine. Help stem the wave of indiscriminate killings which have so plagued our nation. Be with our first responders who put their own lives in danger that others might be spared. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader: God our provider, as we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so the outcome reflects your will for our future. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reader: God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Reader: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

## GREETING & PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

*We invite you to turn and share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

Please be seated.

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## MEAL

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### OFFERTORY

“Sing Forth to the Lord”  
By David Paxton

Mark A. Fletcher

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

*Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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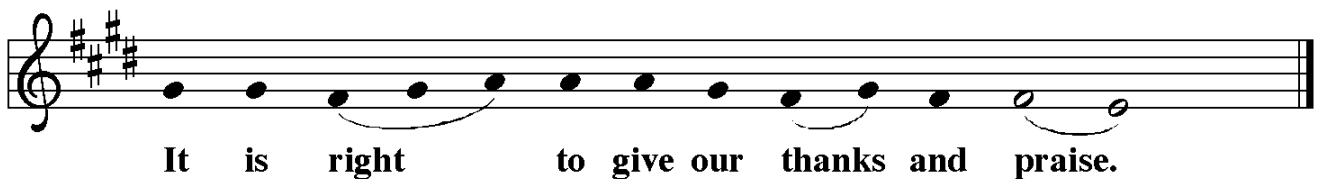
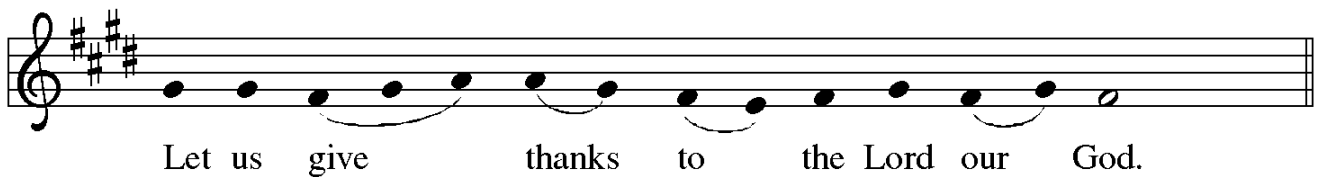
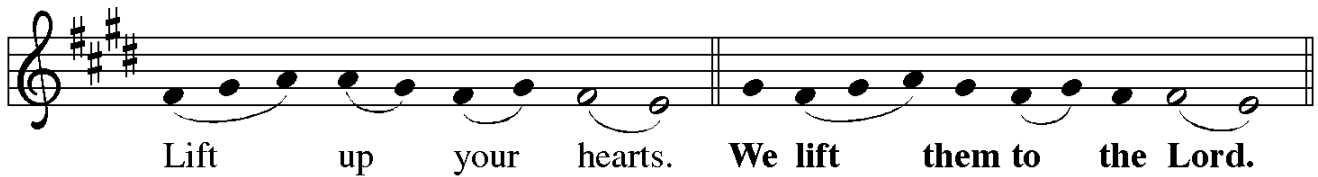
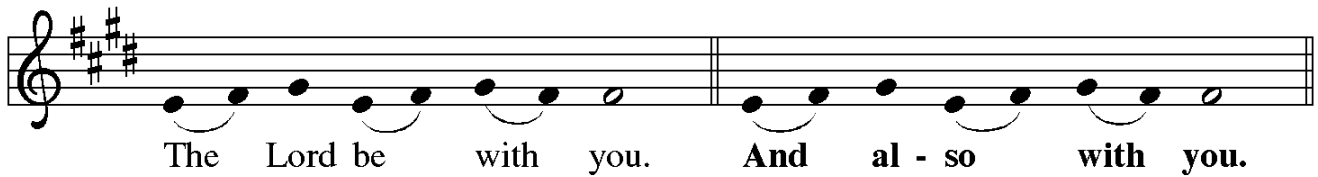
Please stand as you are able.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God,

People: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on the earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray as the Lord has taught us:

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for now all is ready.

Please be seated.

## HOLY COMMUNION



☒ 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.

Please stand as you are able.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you unto life eternal.

People: Amen.



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Pastor:** Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**People:** **Amen.**

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## SENDING

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### BLESSING

**Pastor:** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

"Thy Strong Word"  
(see music on next page)

ELW 511

### DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

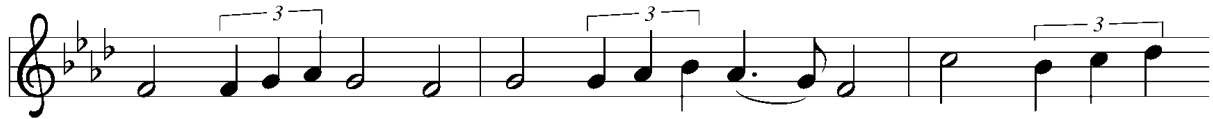
"March in C"  
By Henry Purcell

Mark A. Fletcher

*Renewed and strengthened by our worship together, go forth in peace to serve to the world.*

*Following today's Service, we invite you to find fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.*

# Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



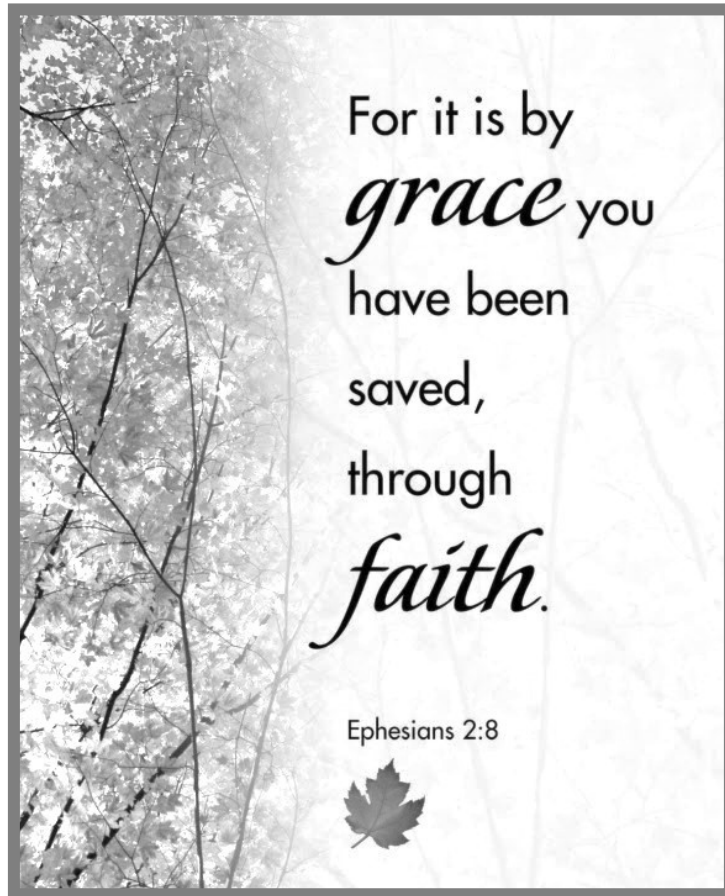
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976  
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944  
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**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46**

*(not read during today's service)*

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult. <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day. <sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. <sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth; <sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.