

New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



**25th Sunday After Pentecost
November 19, 2023
Worship Service**

Announcements for November 19, 2023

PRAYERS FOR OUR NJLC COMMUNITY

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

Prayer Requests: Millie Shomaker (Rob Legard); Wayne Dunkley (NJLC member); Mack and Helen Keister (NJLC members); Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox);

PRAYGROUND TODAY: Children begin worship with us and, following the children's message, will go as a group with Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Stillman to the Prayground to begin rehearsals for the Christmas pageant to be presented during the 10:00 am worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24. Rehearsals are scheduled during the Prayground on November 19, December 3 and December 17.

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.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY TODAY You are invited to bring your personal and private statement of intended giving form in a sealed and stamped envelope next Sunday to be brought forward to the altar and consecrated. A potluck lunch will follow the service.

THE APOSTLES' CREED: AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY: November 26 is canceled

HANGING OF THE GREENS – DECEMBER 2: We need several helping hands, strong arms and some who can climb ladders to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Some expressed a willingness to help if we scheduled the activity on Saturday rather than a day during the week. This year the date has been set for Saturday, December 2 at 9:30 am. Contact a member of the worship team (Pastor Phil, Mark Fletcher, Linda Heffern, Joyce Hoopengardner, Sarah Stillman, Sherry Whipple, or Diana Zapf) if you can help!

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 at njlcmusic@gmail.com. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Rehearsals will begin soon.

WASHINGTON SÄNGERBUND ADVENT CONCERT – DECEMBER 10 at 4:00 p.m.: Join us for a holiday concert with the Washington Sängerbund, the oldest continually operating chorus in the DC Metro area. The program will feature both English and German selections, and 100% of the offering will be given to the Western Loudoun Food Pantry.

COOKIE DECORATING – DECEMBER 17: Join us after church service for fellowship decorating holiday cookies. The cookies and decorating supplies will be here, so bring your creativity and let's have fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2: Hanging of the Greens (decorating sanctuary) at 9:30 a.m.

December 3: Annual Congregation Meeting following the church service

December 10: Washington Sängerbund Concert at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary

December 17: Lessons and Carols Service followed by Cookie Decorating

December 24: Children's Christmas Pageant (10:00 am) & Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)

LIFTERS FOR NOVEMBER:

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
November 26	Joyce Hoopengardner	TBD



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

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Pastor

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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 are given by Jean Karmen and Sarah Stillman in loving memory of their parents, Wayne and Connie McKimmey.

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



To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the 2023 Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.

Introduction

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

GATHERING

READER FOR TODAY

Bill George

PRELUDE

“Andante”
By Felix Mendelssohn

Mark A. Fletcher

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

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

“As Saints of Old”
(see music on next page)

ELW 695

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.

As Saints of Old

1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day

to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.

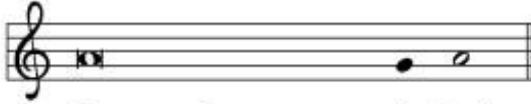
so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,

of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



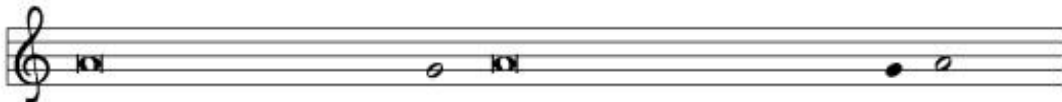
☪ Lord, have mer - cy.



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: 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.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Zephaniah...
⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of 1 Thessalonians ...
¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do,

but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into

the joy of your master.’²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

Presentation and Blessing of Estimates of Giving envelopes

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God of the Fertile Fields”
(see music on next page)

ACS 1063

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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APOSTLE'S CREED

**People: 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reader: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader; You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you (*especially Millie Shomaker, Wayne Dunkley, Mack and Helen Keister, Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock*). Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader: 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: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reader: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Reader: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”
By Joachim Neander

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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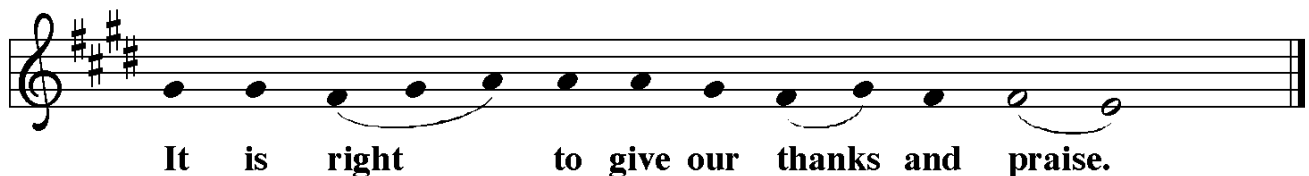
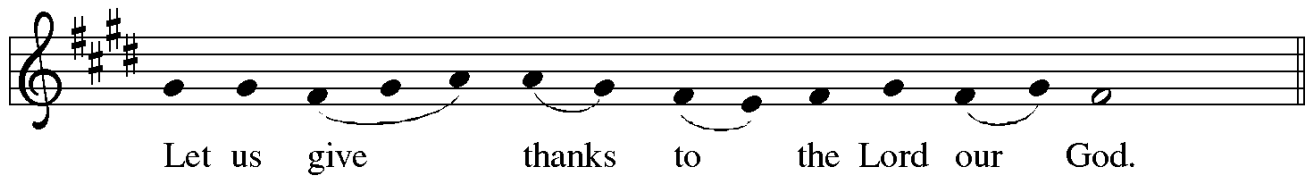
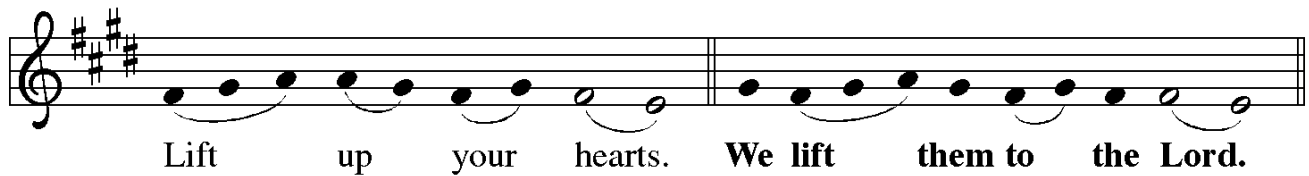
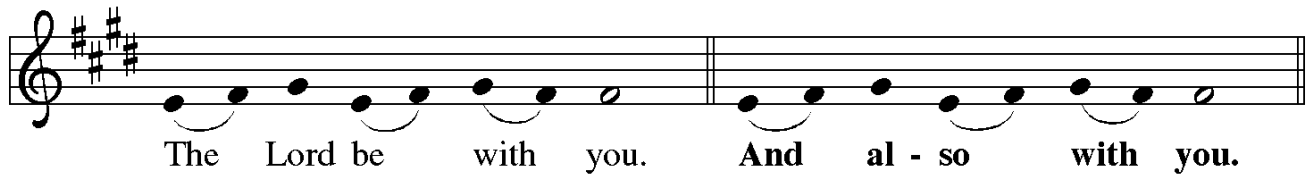
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Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Generous God,

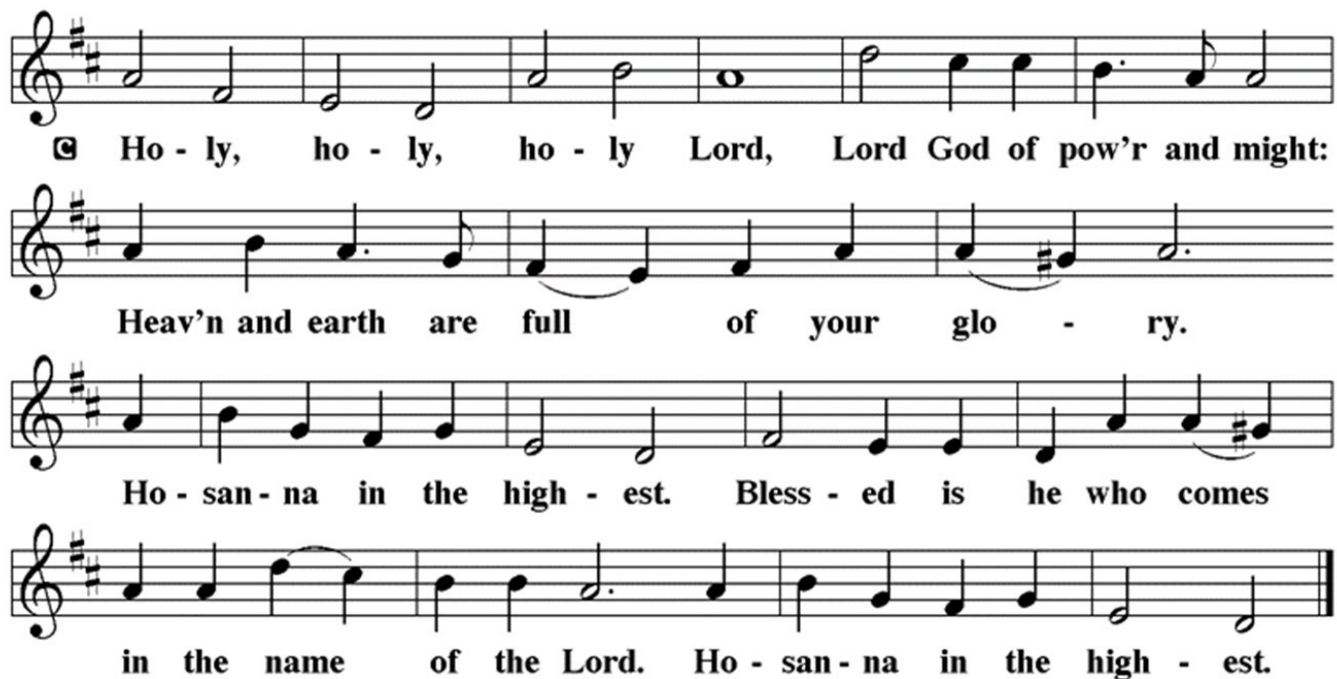
People: **God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy, and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels 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: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

People: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past”
(see music on next page)

ELW 632

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

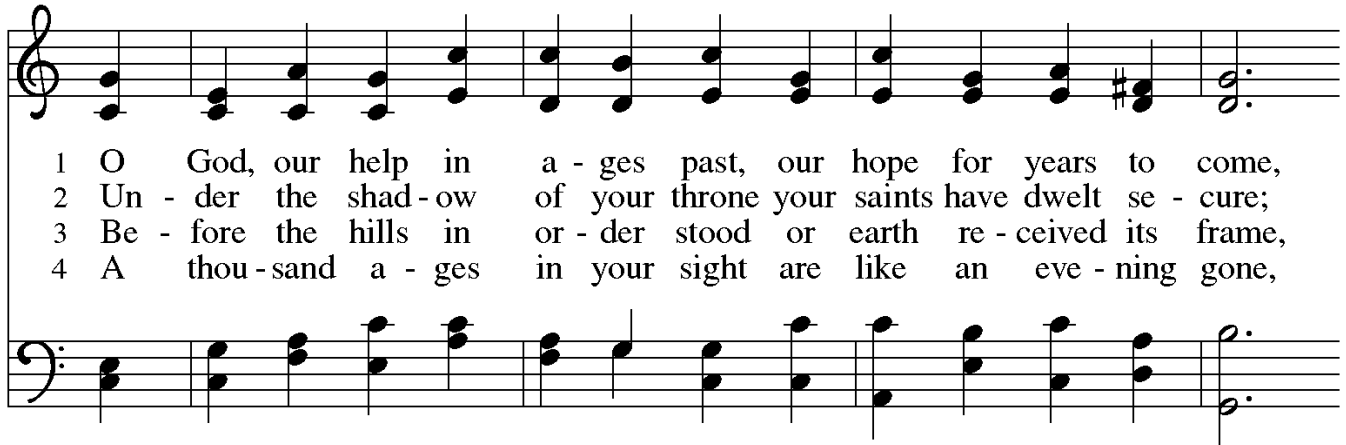
“Marche de Procession, Opus 42 No. 5”
By Alexandre Guilmant

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.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

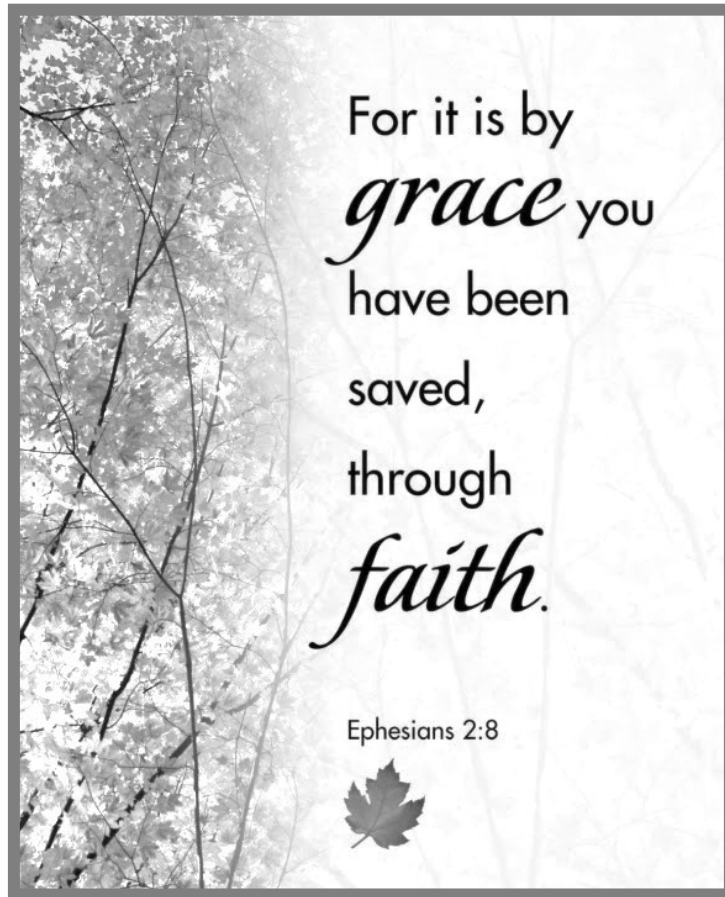


our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

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

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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

(not read during today's service)

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. ³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth." ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night; ⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass: ⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. ⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath. ⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. [⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone. ¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?] ¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.