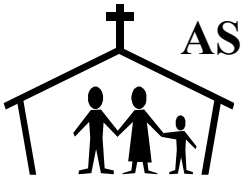
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Concordia is the Church where the love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices."

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)
Online Worship posted to website Saturday evening
Sunday, November 8, 2026
8:00 am and 11:00 am Services in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)



AS WE GATHER

Today we come to the Third Article of the Creed: "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."

Luther begins his explanation with a confession many of us would rather skip: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." Faith is not our achievement. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, gathers us into His Church, forgives us daily, and will raise us on the Last Day.

In the Large Catechism, Luther says simply that the Spirit's work is to make us holy. This morning we will learn the two ways the Church uses that word: the whole work by which the Spirit brings us to Christ, and the daily work by which He renews us in Christ.

As you prepare for worship, pray Psalm 51 with David: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." The Spirit is still at work. He is not finished with you yet.
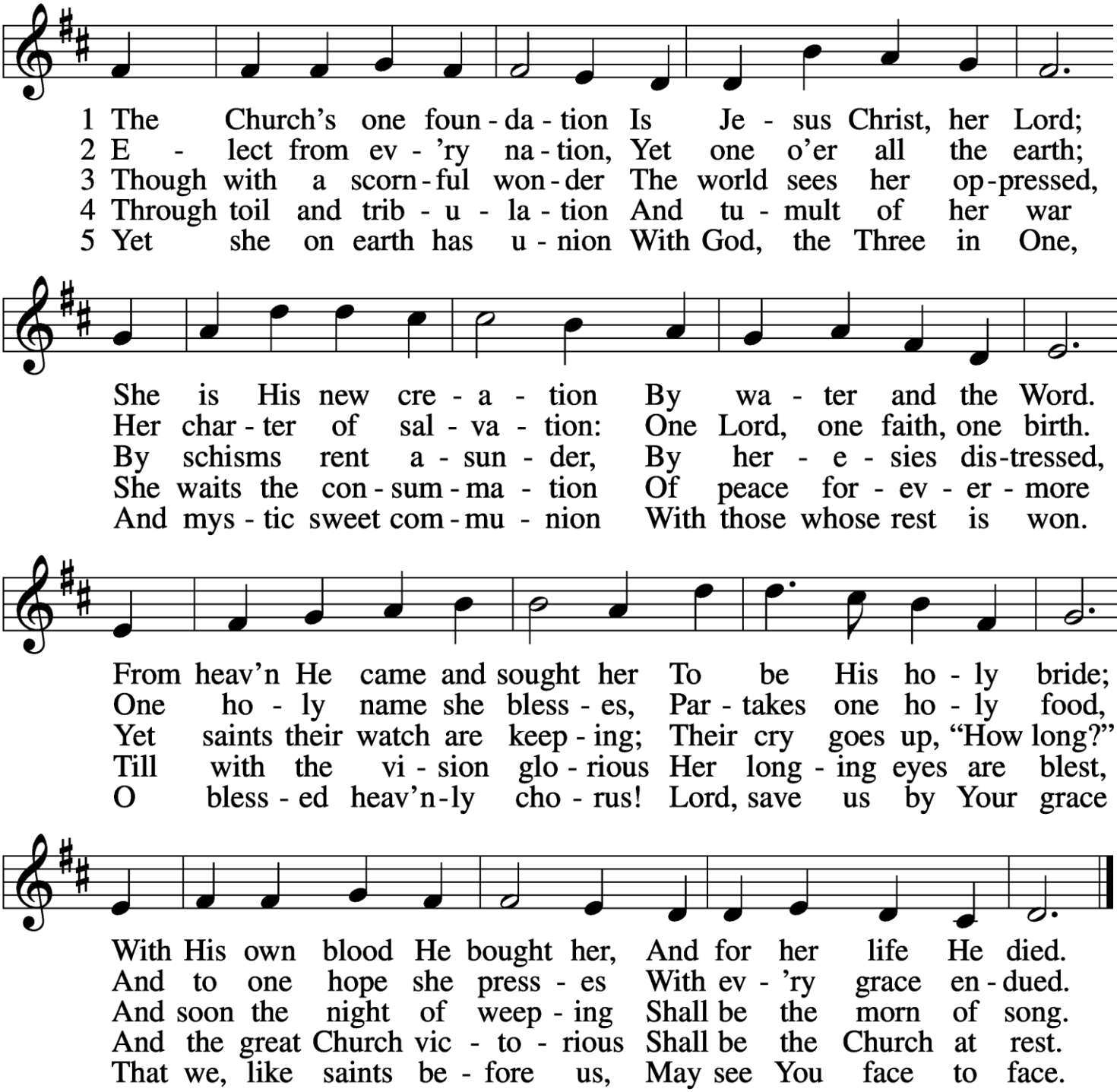
PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (p. 22-23)

(*Please stand as able and face the Cross*)

OPENING / PROCESSIONAL HYMN #644 (vs. 1-5)

"*The Church's One Foundation*"



+ DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE +

(Hymnal, p. 184)

INVOCATION (Matthew 28:19b)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. **(Hebrews 10:22)**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

(*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

People: Most merciful God, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.
We have done things that we should not have done, and we have failed to do the things we should have done.
We have been impatient. We have grumbled. We have gossiped. We have been critical of others and we have been difficult. We have used coarse language and have taken Your name in vain.
We have sought and received Your forgiveness and, then, we have refused to forgive our neighbor.
Father, forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may be freed from the guilt and burdens that we carry and daily strive to live under Your order and design for us. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **(John 20:22-23**)
People: Amen.

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS EXPLANATION

What is the Office of the Keys?
The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth and Pastors to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?
This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?
I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.
(1965, Luther's Small Catechism, pg. 18; "The Office of the Keys and Confession")

(*Please remain standing as able*)

PSALMODY (Psalm 51)

Pastor: [1]Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
People: [2]Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! [3]For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: [4]Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
People: [5]Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Pastor: [6]Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
People: [7]Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Pastor: [8]Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
People: [9]Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.[10]Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Pastor: [11]Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
People: [12]Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(*Please remain standing as able*)

HYMN OF PRAISE Words and Music by Peter Schultes
"They'll Know we Are Christians by Our Love"

We are one in the Spirit, we are one the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

And praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Salutation Explanation

The Service of the Word continues with a traditional greeting among Christians. This responsive dialogue unites the people and the pastor in corporate worship. The Hebrew greeting Shalom alechum! Alechum shalom! ("Peace be with you") is still heard in Israeli streets. Christians replaced the Hebrew wish for peace, shalom, with the Peacegiver Himself. "The Lord be [or is] with you" may be said prior to the Collect of the Day.

The Salutation has been interpreted in several ways, but its underlying emphasis is the existence of a special relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The response "And also with you," or "And with your spirit," confirms this caring relationship. This is not a prayer but an exchange of mutual love and respect. The Salutation is a much stronger greeting than the "Good Morning!" often expressed from the chancel prior to a Sunday liturgy.
The salutation signifies a spiritual tie between pastor and the people that the Lord alone brings.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **(2 Timothy 4:22)**

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(*Please be seated*)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

(*The Valley of Dry Bones*)

Reader: The Old Testament reading is from Ezekiel, Chapter 37.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the
Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was
full of bones. **2** And he led me around among them, and behold, there
were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were
very dry. **3** And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." **4** Then he said to me,
"Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the
word of the LORD. **5** Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I
will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6** And I will lay
sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover
you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall
know that I am the LORD."

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there
was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone
to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them,
and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there
was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath;
prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD:
Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that
they may live." 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the
breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an
exceedingly great army.

11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house
of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is
lost; we are indeed cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them,
Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise
you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land
of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your
graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put
my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your
own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken,
and I will do it, declares the LORD."

(*After the reading…*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
(*You Were Washed, You Were Sanctified, You Were Justified*)

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from First Corinthians, Chapter Six.

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the
kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral,
nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,
10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor
swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of
you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in
the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

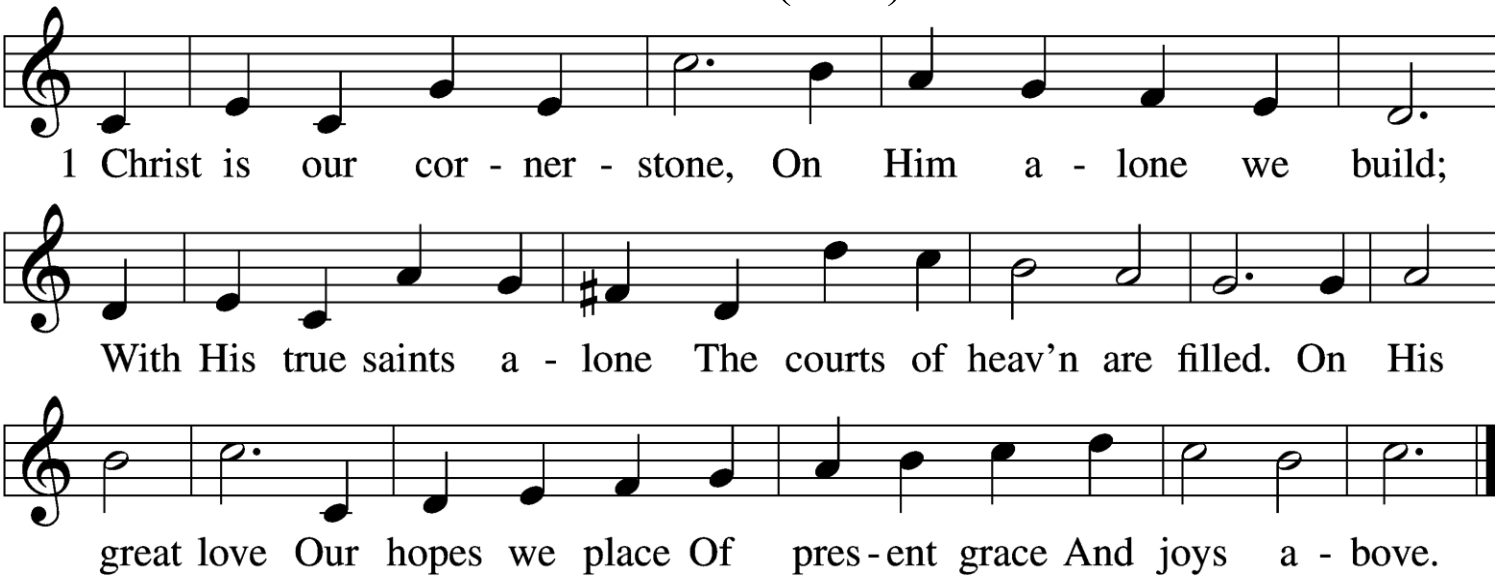
(*After the reading…*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

(*Please stand as able for the Verse and the reading of the Gospel Lesson*)

HYMN VERSE

#912 "*Christ Is Our Cornerstone*" (vs. 1)



HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-8

(*You Must Be Born Again*)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Third Chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(*The Gospel is read*)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." **3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Explanation of the Creed
The word "Creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe." Creeds in the Church are a confession of faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the Triune God. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
The Church has had the long tradition that goes back to the first centuries after Jesus' death and resurrection. That tradition is confessing the Church's faith in a way that shows unity with the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps us from falling into false beliefs.

L: Now, having heard God's Word, let us join together in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

L: What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead and will give eternal life to me and to all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen.

(*Please be seated*)

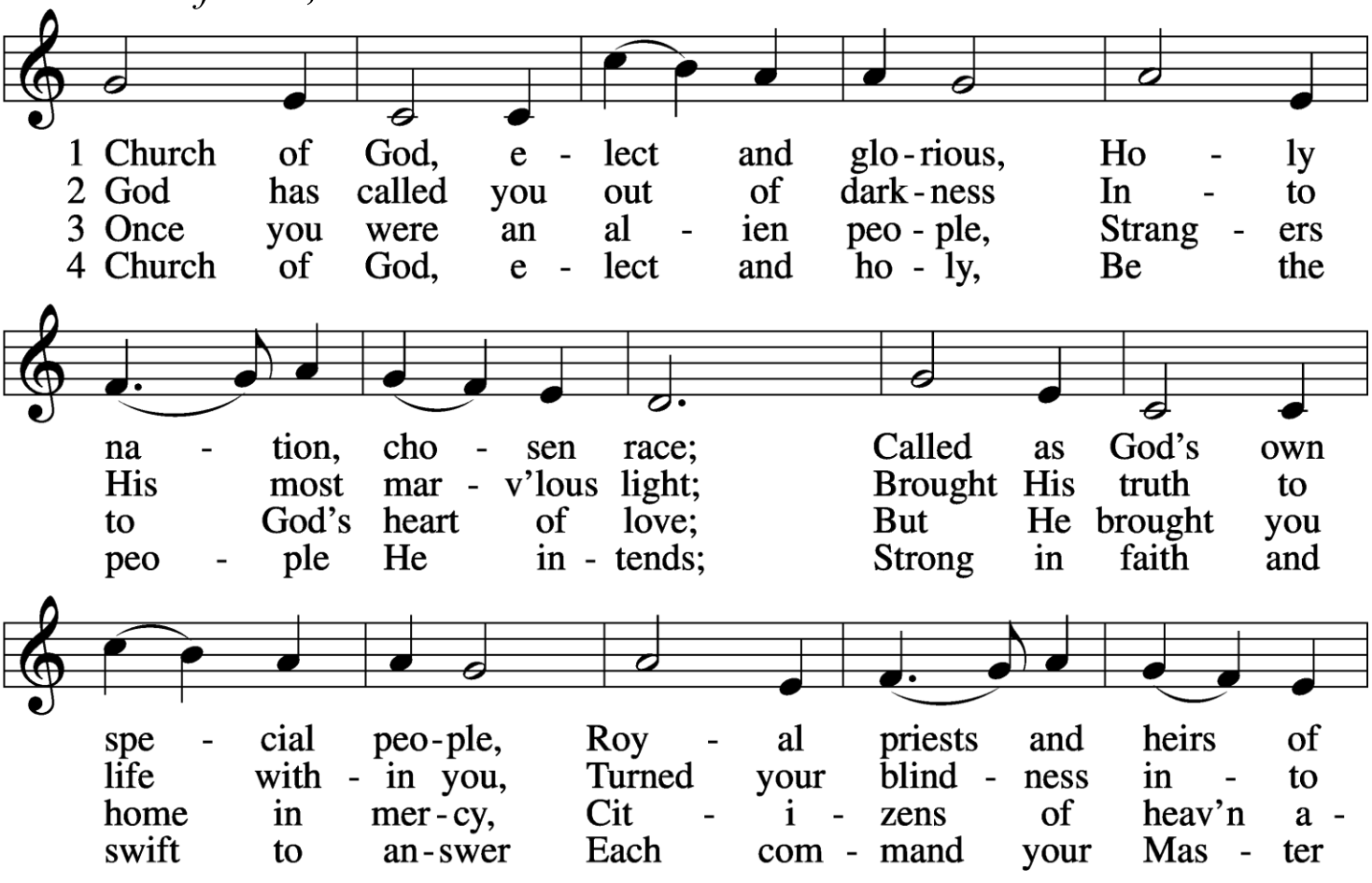
CHILDREN'S HYMN: *We invite the children forward as we sing: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"*

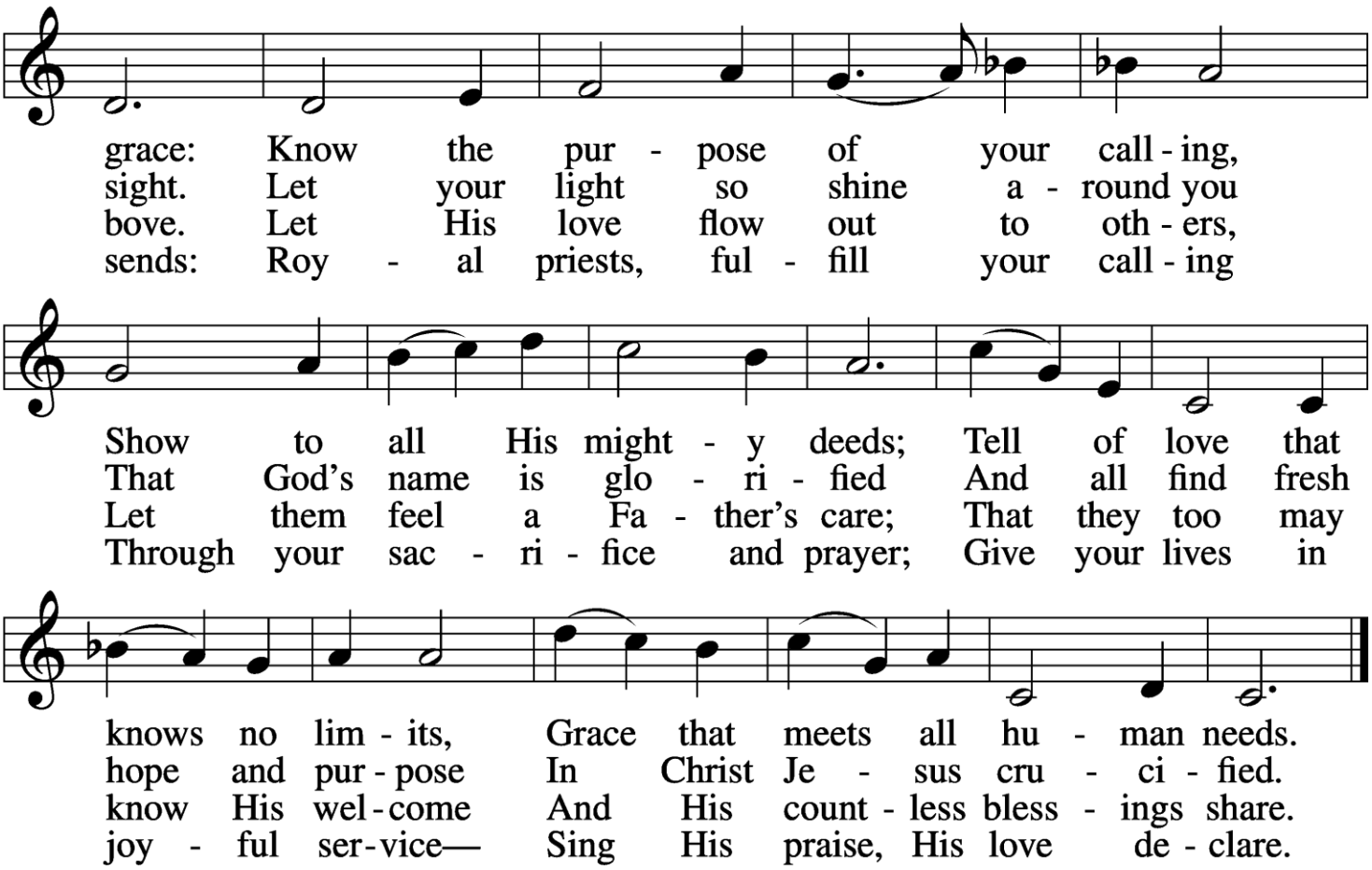
Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world;
Red or yellow, black or white, they are precious in His Sight:
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children, All the children of the world;
Red or yellow, black or white, they are precious in His Sight;
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – DCE, Mr. Tim Buss

SERMON HYMN #646 (vs. 1-4)
"*Church of God, Elect and Glorious*"





SERMON Rev. Mark Moretz

"MADE HOLY"

TITHES, PLEDGES, AND OFFERINGS

(*Please stand as able for the Prayers*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: O father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your servants. Assure them of your mercy and give them patience and comfort in their time of illness. We especially pray for…….. If it please You, restore them to health or give them grace to accept this time of illness with courage and hope. Lord, in Your mercy….
People: Hear our prayer.
Pastor: We pray for those who mourn. Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the faithful cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy….
People: Hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. We especially remember……We also pray for all police officers and first responders. Support them in times of conflict, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor. Lord, in Your mercy….
People: Hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, be a nation of justice, and serve You faithfully in our generation. Lord, in Your mercy….
People: Hear our prayer.
Pastor: Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church, for the Means of Grace, for the lives of all

faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to You service. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

AS WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He promises, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. All baptized Christians, who trust this promise, repent of their sins, and set aside any refusal to love and forgive others, are invited to the Lord's Supper.

It is also important to understand two additional things the Scriptures teach about the Lord's Supper. First, participation in this meal is a bold confession of what we believe as Lutheran Christians. The Apostle Paul writes to the church of God in Corinth and to us:

"For as often as you eat and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV)

Second, those who eat and drink the Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. The Apostle continues in his writing,

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29 ESV)

For these reasons, if you have not been instructed in the teachings of the Lutheran faith, have not confessed agreement with the Lutheran faith, or are in doubt about or holds beliefs differing from The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we request that you do not receive this Sacrament today.

We encourage you to find a time to speak with your Adult Leader or pastor so we might be able to commune together with you sometime in the future.

During the celebration of the Lord's Supper, you may stay in your seat or walk forward together with your group. If you choose to come forward, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you will not be receiving the body and blood of Jesus. The pastor distributing the Lord's Supper will speak a blessing for you.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Hymnal, p. 194)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

(Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (***1 Corinthians 11:26)***

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (***Revelation 22:20)***

THE LORD'S PRAYER **(Matthew 6:9-13)**

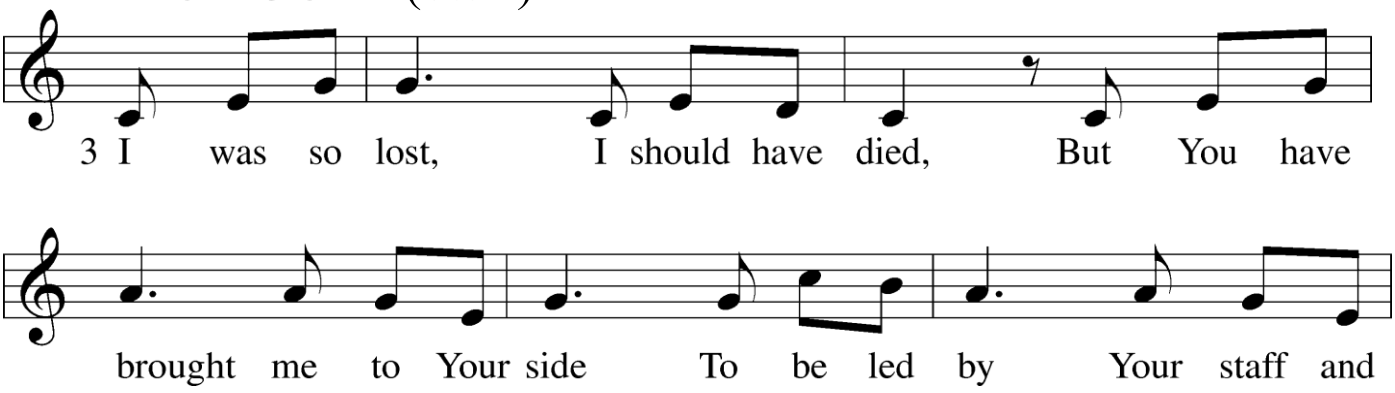
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

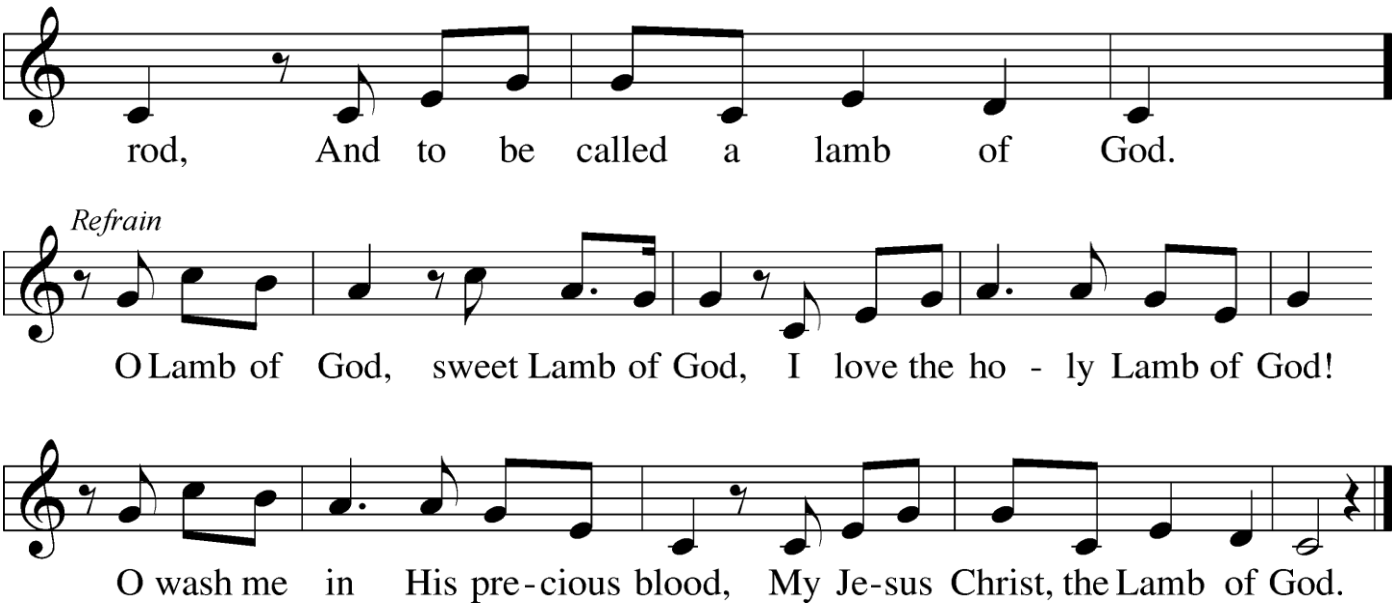
PAX DOMINI **(John 20:19)**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (vs. 3)
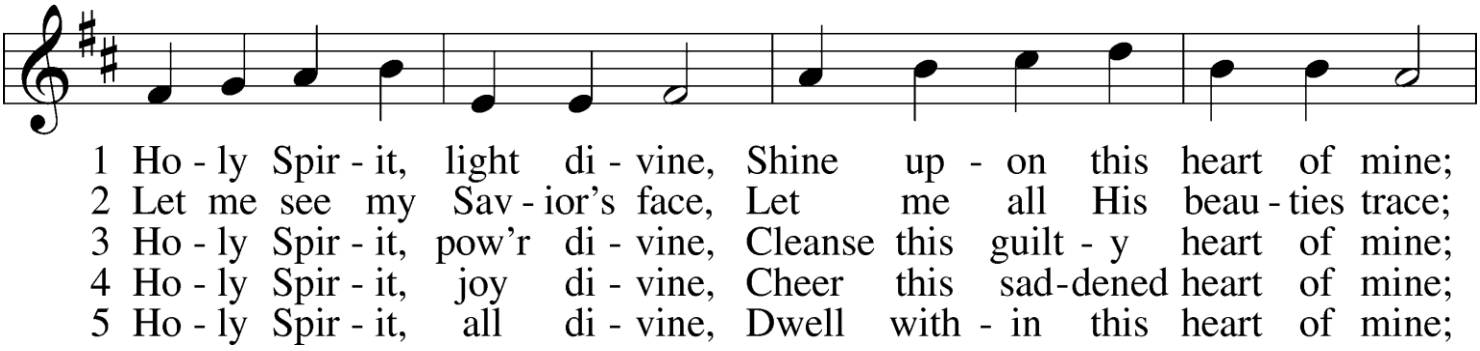




DISTRIBUTION
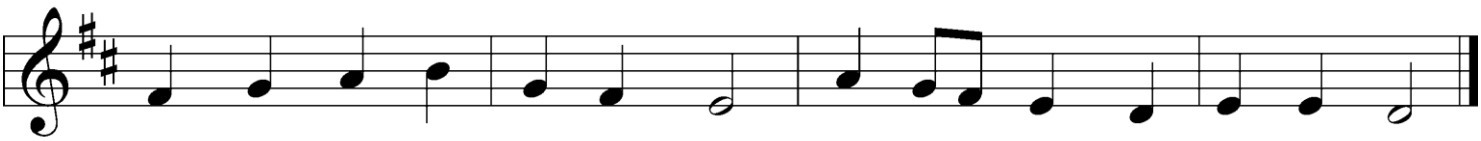
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"*I Love You Lord*" ~ Maranatha

I Love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice
Take joy my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. (*Three Times*)

#496 "*Holy Spirit, Light Divine*" (vs. as needed)





Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction Explanation

Using the words of Numbers 6:22-27, the pastor speaks the trinitarian blessing on the people. The last word of the liturgy comes from God, who hosted the service. The Benediction is more than a prayer or a wish. By His most holy name, the Benediction bestows God's blessing on the people for the rest of the week. To rephrase the Benediction as a wish (for example, beginning with "May the Lord bless…" removes the divine significance of our Host's parting declaration to His gathered guests. The Aaronic Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26) is a uniquely Lutheran choice, yet it underscores the continuity of praise with all God's people.. Worshippers also may make the sign of the cross on themselves as the pastor makes it over the whole congregation.

THE BENEDICTION **(Numbers 6:24-26)**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you,

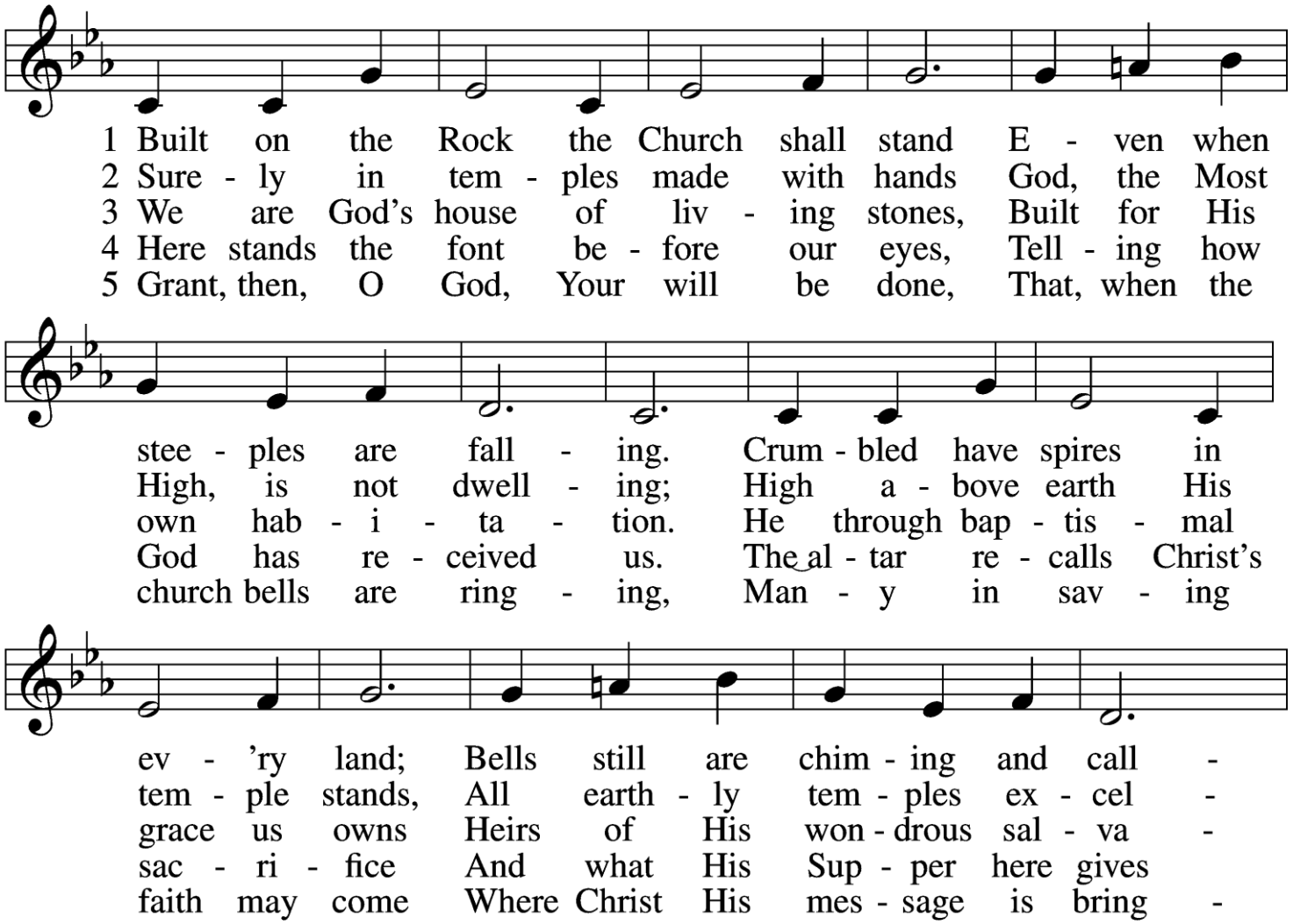
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

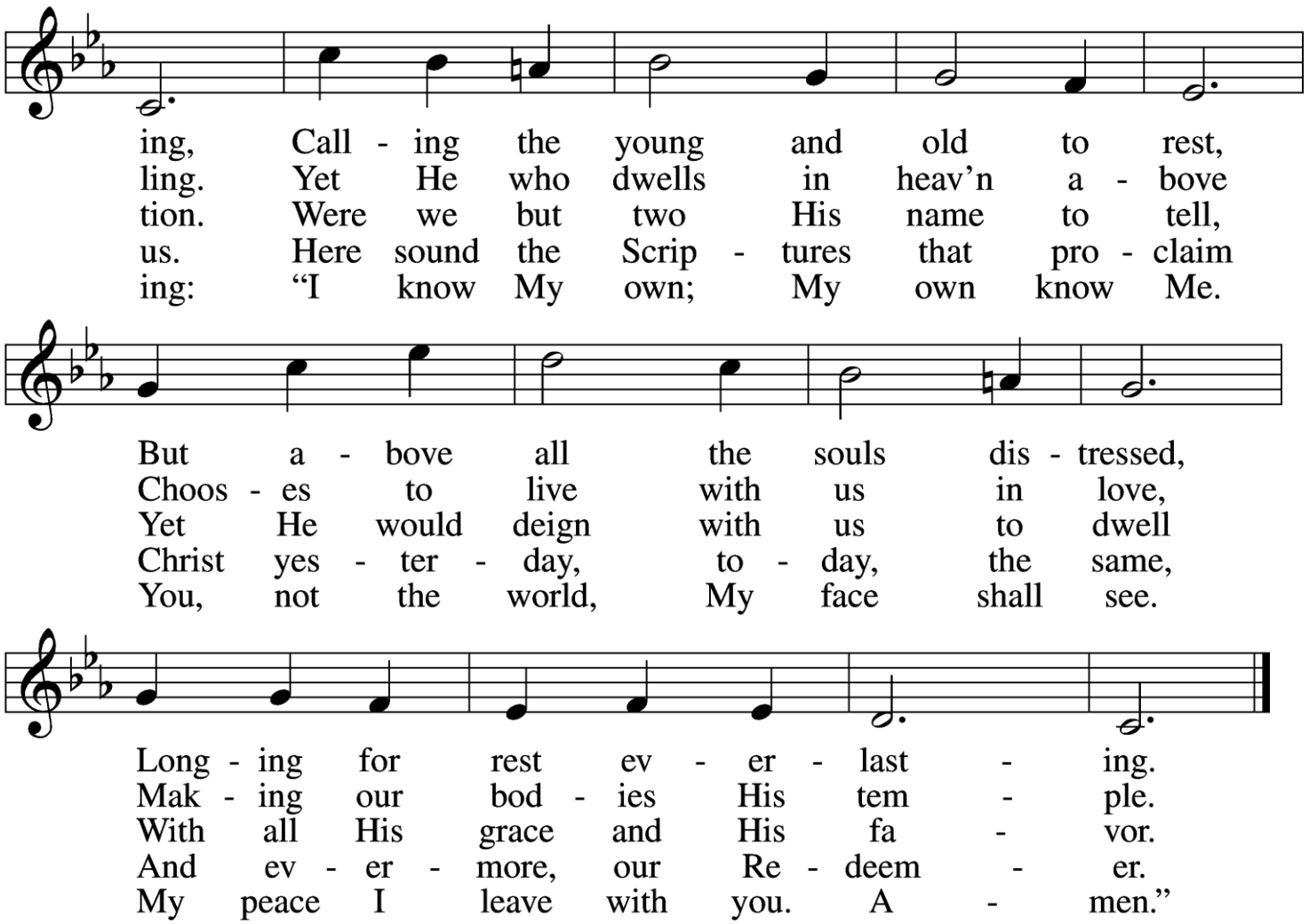
The LORD look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #645 (vs. 1-5)

"*Built on the Rock*"





THE SENDING

Pastor: Our worship is now ended.
People: My service now begins.
Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

IN SERVICE OF THE LORD TODAY:

Officiant	Rev. Mark Moretz
Organist	Cindy Golem
Pianist	Shelly Hector, Kathy Schleef
Lectors	Chip Brown (5:30) Don Enterline (8:00) Adam Brown (11:00)
Greeters	Volunteer (5:30) Kathy Enterline (8:00) Karen & John Mullican (11:00)
Video	Adam Brown, Sam Moretz and Jaymes Yeakle
Visuals	Cari Lowery, Fred Tichnell and Sam Moretz
Usher	Chip Brown, Dory Brown, Maggie Brown, Adam Brown, Joe Brown, Carrol Gatling, Jody Gann, Jesse Lowery, Bert Brittain, Mark Roeder, and Paul Roeder
Altar Guild	Sylvia Shives, Ron Golem, Mike and Nancy Flicek, Marian Foster, Dory Brown, and Deaconess Beverly Walling
Acolytes	Evan Moretz; Erin, Aubrey, and Tommy Davidson; Sydney and Katie Hector; Joe, Charlotte, Andrew Brown and Sarah Brown; Alexis Lowery, Nethanel Lowery; Grayson and Logan Moreland

The people of Concordia have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.
You can bring your offering to the Lord using the plate as it is passed or online at concordiahagerstown.org under "Give".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please check the newsletter for additional announcements]

Email addresses:
Church: concordia.hagerstown@gmail.com
Open Arms: openarms.hagerstown1@gmail.com

Gluten-free wafers are now available. Please let Pastor Mark know at the Communion Rail if you prefer these.

SUNDAY – 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Class, in the Sanctuary, Pastor Mark will lead a study of the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: Downstairs in the Outreach Center -Pastor Pekari will lead a study on 1 John.

MONDAY Bible Study – Monday 1:30 Bible Study with the Book of Acts, Part 2. The facilitator will be Trudy Borrelli.

CHOIR – The choir is rehearsing on Wednesdays from 7:30 t0 8:30 pm. Come join us if you like to Praise the Lord with song. We can use more voices, especially men.
Leader - Kathy Schleef, accompanist -Shelly Hector.

"MISSION OF THE MONTH" for November is Lutheran Bible Translators.

Poinsettias orders Yes, it's that time already! Forms are in the worship folder this week. The cost $14.25, payable to Concordia Lutheran Church, poinsettia on the memo line. Place order form with payment in a specially basket in the office. Deadline to order is November 22.

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotional books for October – December (and larger print) are available in the basket in the narthex.

OPEN ARMS PRESCHOOL – Donations from the congregation of cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Clorox type wipes, Lysol spray, bleach, paper towels, sanitizers, etc. Thank you, Natalie.

ALTAR FLOWERS –the price for altar flowers is $70.00 per arrangement.
The flower chart for 2026 is on the bulletin board outside pastor's office. Member participation is encouraged and appreciated. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY (or two or three).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Request forms to have a prayer shawl made for you or a loved one are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. Please complete the form and put it in Jane O'Farrell's mailbox. If anyone would like to share their talent of knitting or crocheting for this ministry please contact Jane O'Farrell

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CHURCH SIGN MESSAGE – All church events can be advertised on the Electric Sign. Please contact: Mark Eberly at emark353@comcast,.net or Chip Brown, 301- 797-1703. Keep messages short and to the point. No need to call the Pastor or any Board Member for approval.

Mission

We are the Church where the love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices.

Vision

A welcoming community where the grace of Christ transforms lives through Word and Sacrament, equips disciples for faithful service, and shares His love with ever neighbor.

Core Values

1. We believe in one God, our Father, His Son Jesus our savior and shepherd, and His Holy Spirit our helper and comforter. We believe that God comes first in our lives. Therefore, attendance and worship and active, enthusiastic, and persistent involvement in God's mission are vital to our witness.

2. We believe that trusting God's love for us all is at the heart of our relationship to Him, and to our relationships with each other, and should be a part of every aspect of church life (1 Corinthians 13; John 13:34-35).

3. We believe that every person matters to God, and therefore, all people matter to the church. Likewise, we believe that we should be a loving, welcoming, and compassionate place that actively invites our community and neighbors to join us (Luke 15; Luke 5:30-32).

4. We believe, as Christ's followers, that we have been humbled, that we should be authentic (real) about our own need for forgiveness, that we live in God's amazing grace, and that we yearn for continuous growth (Ephesians 4:25-26; Hebrews 12:1).

5. We believe that God's church is one, and holy as He is Holy, and that His love and forgiveness is universal in scope, and that we should remain faithful to the Biblical truths passed on to us by Christ and Scripture, the apostles, and expressed in Lutheran doctrine while engaging with our surrounding culture

through our facility, mission efforts, and communications (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

6. We believe the pursuit of full devotion to Christ is normal for every believer and this includes the teaching or servanthood and putting our faith into action, stewardship and the pursuit of kingdom goals (Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8:7).

7. We believe God is uniting His people into one Body with His over-arching ministry of reconciliation, and that every believer is endowed with certain unique spiritual abilities and we should equip them to minister out of their gifts and passion (Ephesians 4).

8. We believe that we are to be patient, kind, gentle, honest, peaceful, loving, and that having self-control is essential to our witness and church effectiveness. This includes speaking the truth in love, communicating honestly with one another, and practicing forgiveness with one another (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:15).

9. We believe excellence honors God and inspires people, and that our giving of thanks for whatever we can do, see, or find that is excellent, brings God honor. We also believe that God has given us First Article gifts with which we work to be innovative, adaptable, and dynamic in the way we minister to our communities (Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17; First Article of The Apostles' Creed).

10. We Believe that we are to be a people of prayer as Jesus taught us, calling on God as children ask their dear Father. We pray continually for our families, for Church, for our communities, for our leaders, for our nation, and for the Holy Spirit to bring all people to faith (Matthew 6:9-15).

Worship with us!

Saturday in the Sanctuary:
Traditional (*Liturgical)* Service, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday in the Sanctuary:
Traditional *(Liturgical)* Service, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated at all Services.

- ***Sunday School meets in the Education Wing, 9:30 a.m.***

Preschool (age 3-5) Community Room
Elementary (Grades 1-5) Community
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Luther Room
High School (Grades 9-12) Luther Room

- ***Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.***

Sanctuary (Pastor Mark Moretz)

Outreach Center (Pastor Pekari)

- ***Open Arms Preschool***

Registration required for 2, 3, or 4 day AM program