What We Need is Here

Fall Concert
Sunday, November 15, 2026
2:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church
Clinton, IA

Free Admission, Offerings Appreciated

RiverChor
The Gateway Area's Community Chorus



Sunday, November 8, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

The November and December children's offering with be for the God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts. A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable-development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim
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www.stpaulsterling.com

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November 8, 2026
Twenty fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Prelude

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Johnson/Johnson

Welcome/Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
All: Amen.
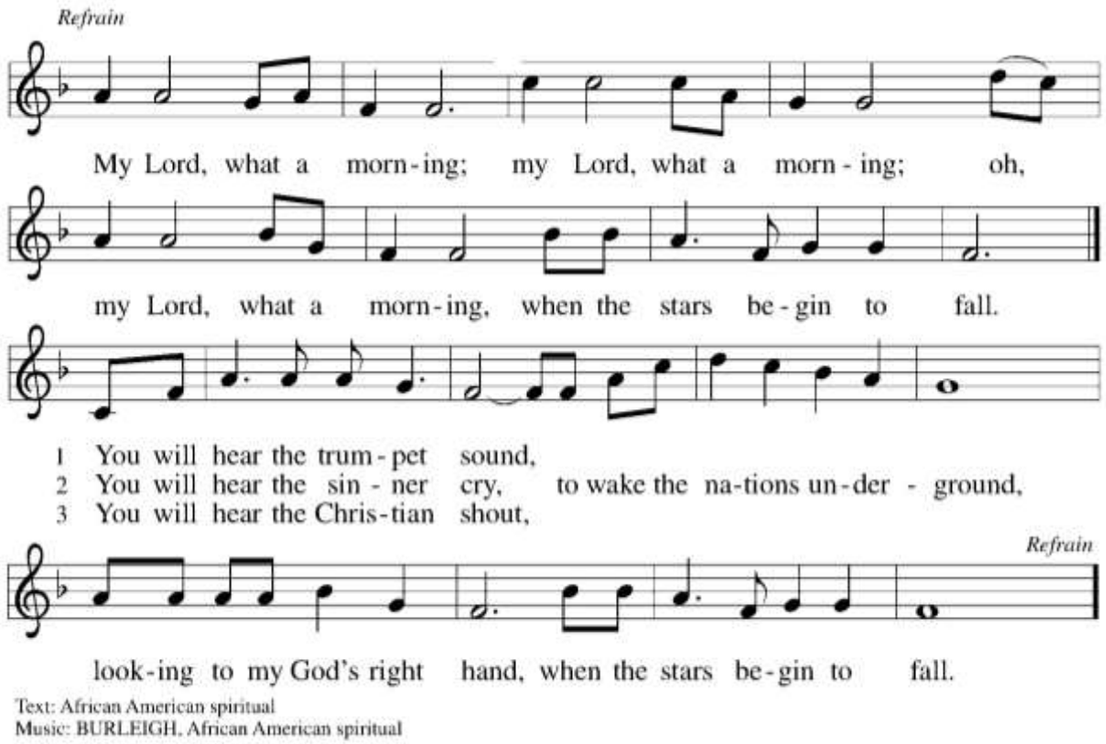
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection***.**

P: Holy God,
All: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn
"My Lord, What a Morning"
ELW #438



GREETING
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All: And also with you.

WELCA Thankoffering
At this time we are lifting up this year's WELCA Thankoffering. The receptacle for those wishing to give an offering to the work of the ELCA's WELCA ministry, (Women of the ELCA), is at the entrance to the sanctuary. Those who wish to give an offering to the ministry of WELCA can do so after the service, if you have not done so already.

The WELCA Thankoffering is an expression of thanks to God for God's provision and a way of supporting God's work in the world. The Thankoffering supports ministry resources for women's health, grants and scholarships, and publications like the Gather magazine.

P: Let us pray. Generous God,
All: we thank you for those who have cared for us and for the gifts we are free to share with others. Bless these offerings, that through them the needs of the world may be met through the ministry of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Amen.

Prayer of the Day
P: Let us pray together:
All: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light,

19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will
not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I
will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the
melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.
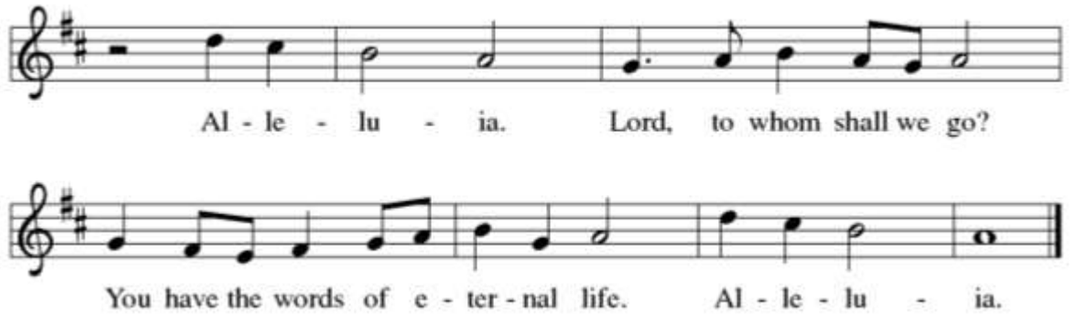
R: Word of God, Word of Life,
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 70
R: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.
All: Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
R: Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
All: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
R: But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
All: You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those
who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no
hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we
declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left
until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have
died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's
call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will
be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air,
and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one
another with these words.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like
this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took
flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them
became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look!
Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise
replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go
to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to
buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him
into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young
women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly

I tell you, I do not know you.’ [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,
All: Praise to you, O Christ.
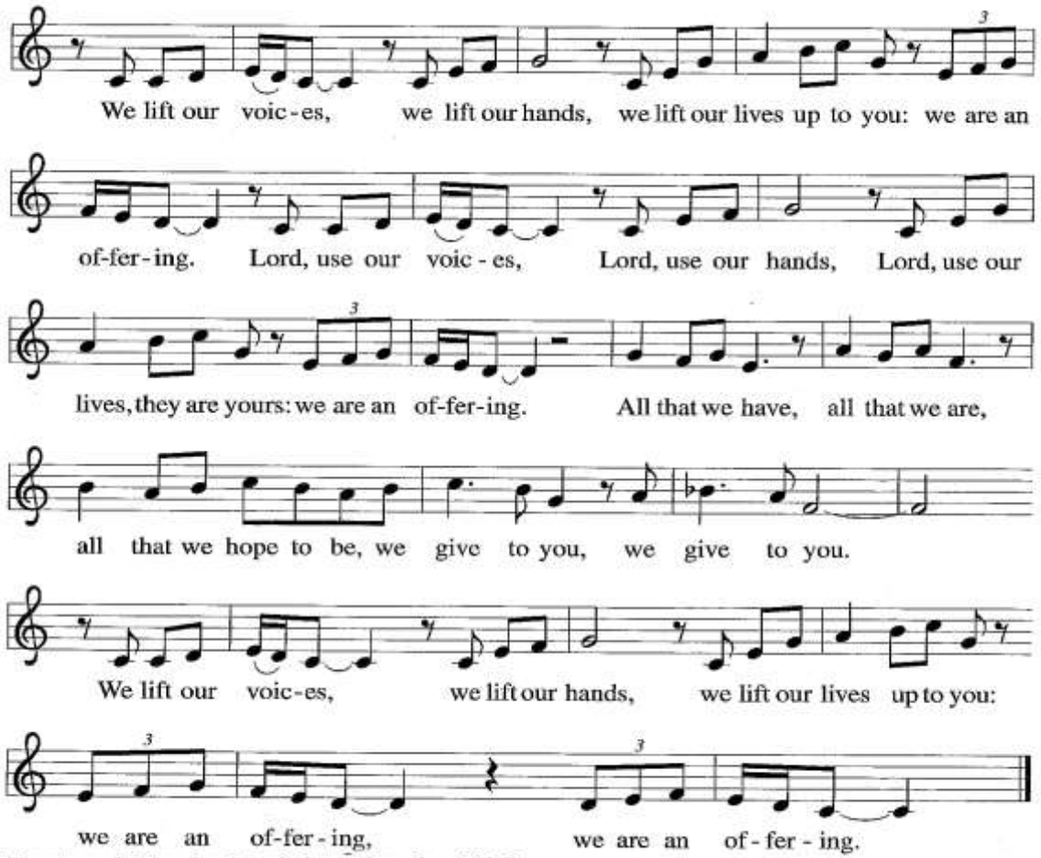
Children’s Message

Sermon

“A Prophet’s Message to a Wealthy People”

Hymn of the Day
“We Are An Offering”

ELW #692



Text and Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Text and music © 1984 World Music, LLC

Apostles Creed

P: Trusting in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

All: 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 power of 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

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
All: Amen.

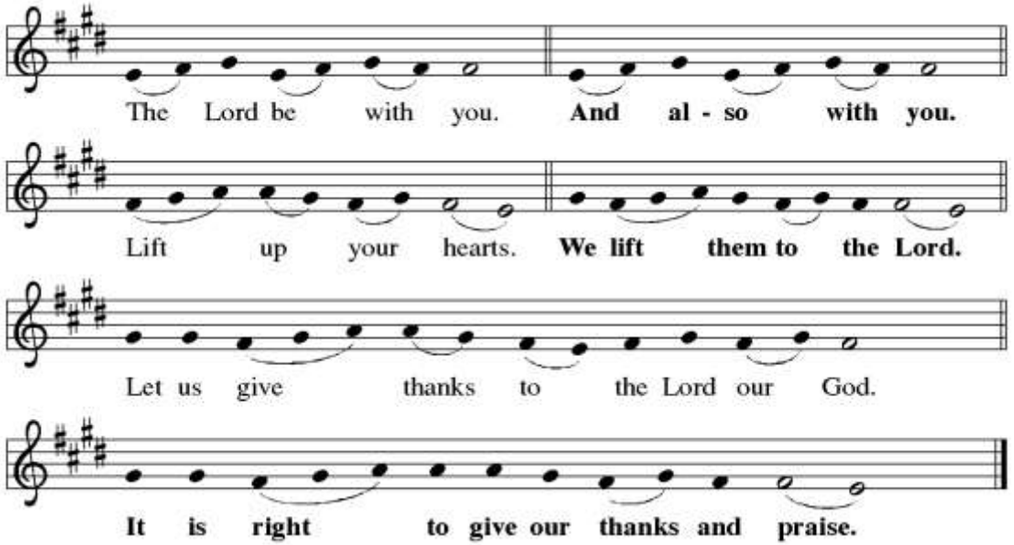
Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you!
P: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

Offering
"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"
Franz/Tucker

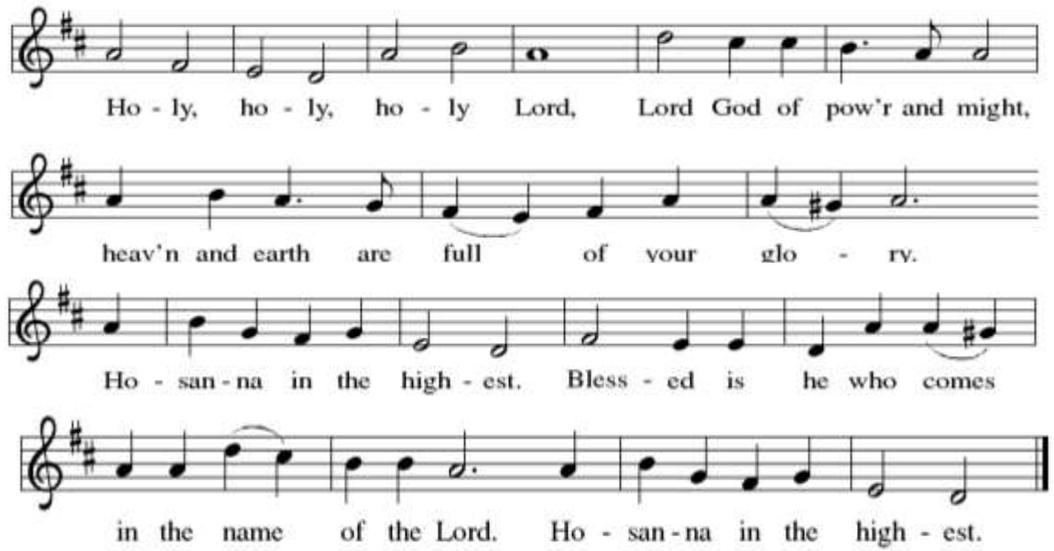
Offering Prayer
P: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



P: 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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



The Words of Institution

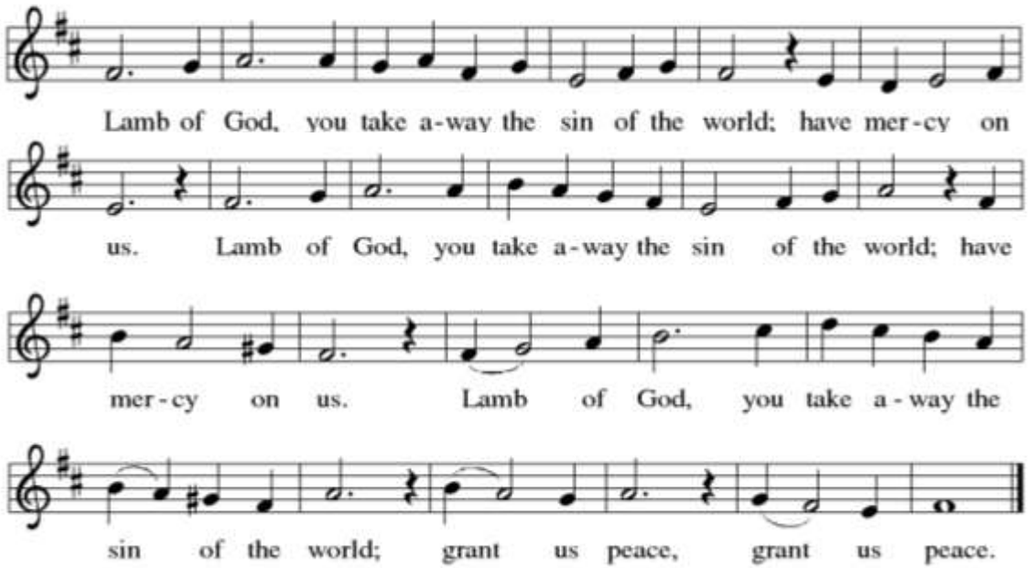
Lord's Prayer
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Communion

"Lamb of God"



Communion Hymn

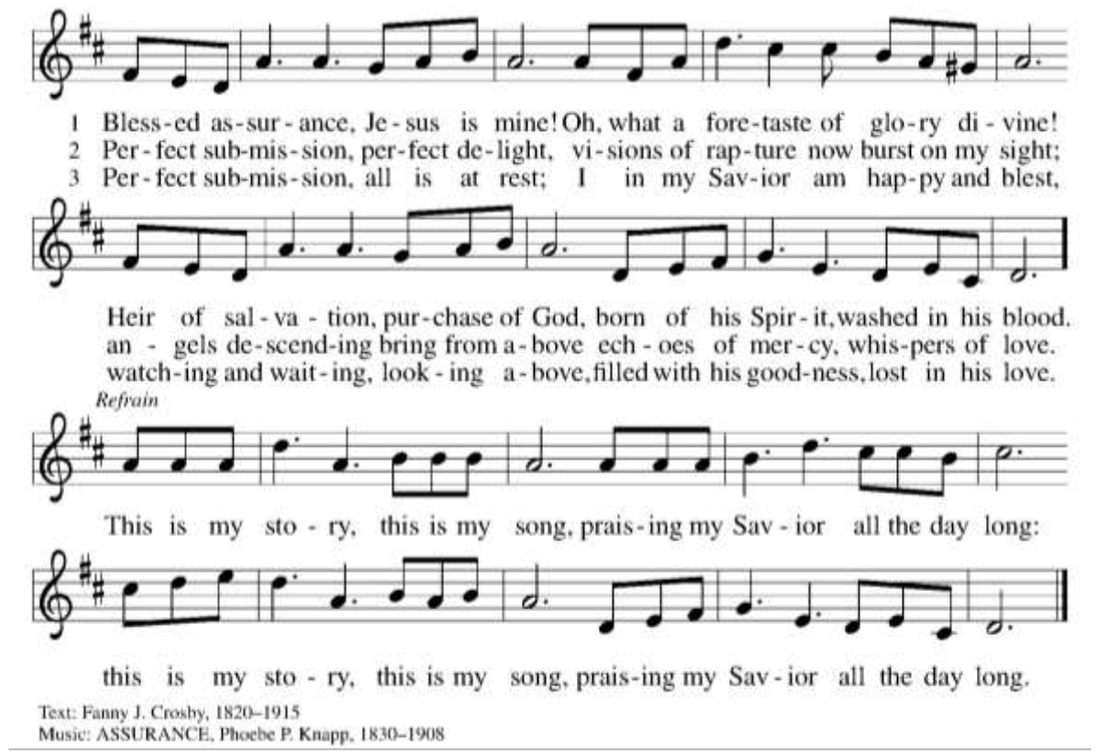
"Take Our Bread"
Wise

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
All: Amen.

P Let us pray.
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
All: Amen.

Blessing
P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
All: Amen.

Sending Song
"Blessed Assurance"
ELW #638



Dismissal
P: Go out in joy. Encourage one another.
All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude
"Victory in Jesus"
Bartlett

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Mary Ann DeJonge, Tricia M., Ken & Stephanie, Richard J., Callahan McCallister, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, and Phyllis Jacobson.

Worship Assistants:
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar
Acolytes – Altar Guild
Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox
Ushers – John Renner, Dan Dir
Reader – JoAnn Garcia
Sound – Greg Zeigler
Communion Assistant – JoAnn Garcia
Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Musicians:
Julie Woessner DeJonge
Maureen Marrindino

Next Week – November 15
Worship Assistants:
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Volunteer Needed
Acolytes – Altar Guild
Greeters & Ushers – Nancy Beck, Diane Yoeckel
Reader – Greg Zeigler
Sound – Greg Zeigler
Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck
Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*