

Focus on the Future

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, November 1 2026

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Children and Worship

What a blessing to have babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with us in worship! We welcome all ages! During the service we have a special message for young children. Parents are welcome to accompany their child up front for this message, if their child is bashful. We have reserved the back rows for families with small children. If your child becomes restless and you feel the need to leave the worship area, the service can be viewed in our parent's room. The parent's room is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Judy Limpert
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

Current Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. "The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

October 4: God is Patient
October 11: Guest Preacher: Nathan Strutz
October 18: Give to God what is God's
October 25: Reformation
November 1: Focus on the Future (All Saints' Day)
November 8: Watch for the Final Events
November 15: Put Your Affairs in Order
November 22: Hope for the Best

Today's Focus: Focus on the Future

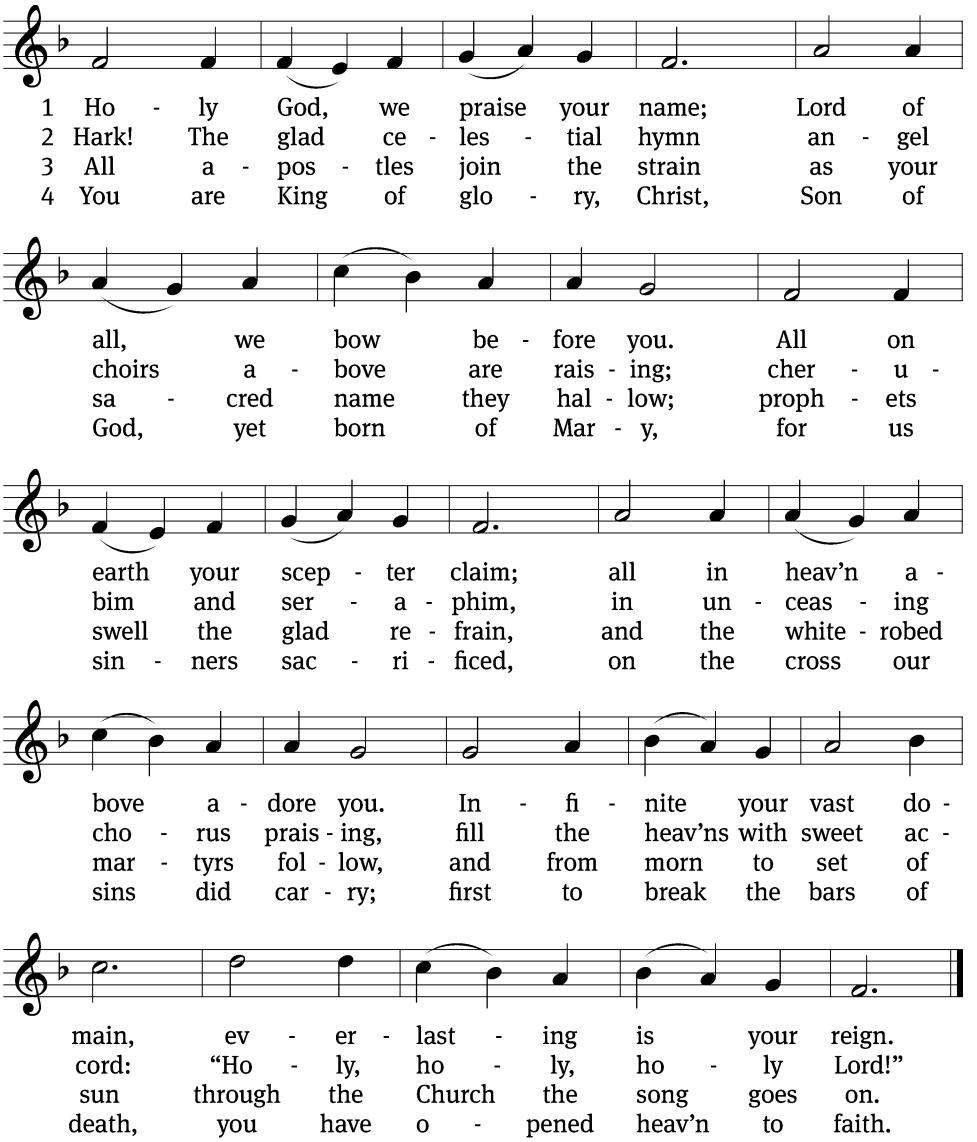
Childbearing is excruciating. Yet each day countless women willingly become pregnant. They know that pain can be endured if it is temporary, with happier times coming immediately after. Likewise, the time between Christ's first and second coming is full of hardship, especially for believers. How do we bear it? We remember that it is temporary. Happier times are coming!

That truth is crystal clear on All Saints' Day. On this day we remember every saint who has gone before us. We have in mind all those who had faith in Jesus, both the heroes of faith in Scripture and all faithful Christian family members. They all endured hardship and pain. But no more. Now they enjoy perfect glory, peace, and joy. It's the beginning of the end, and we endure by remembering all the saints, focusing on the future glory that awaits us.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Please stand

Invocation

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

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.
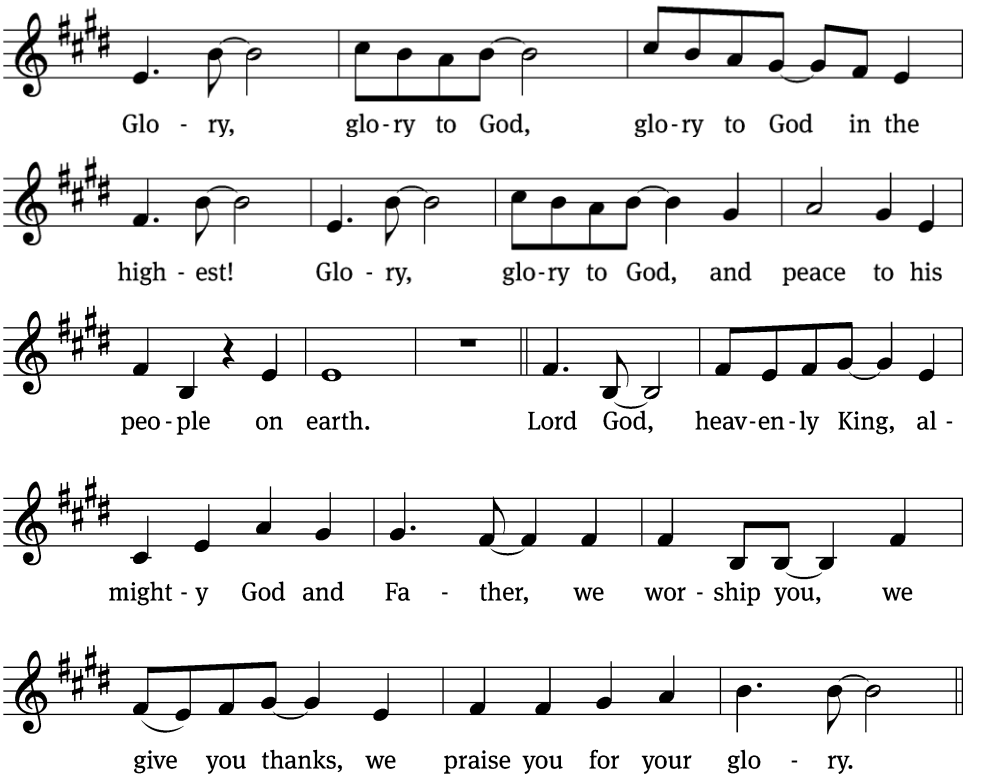
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
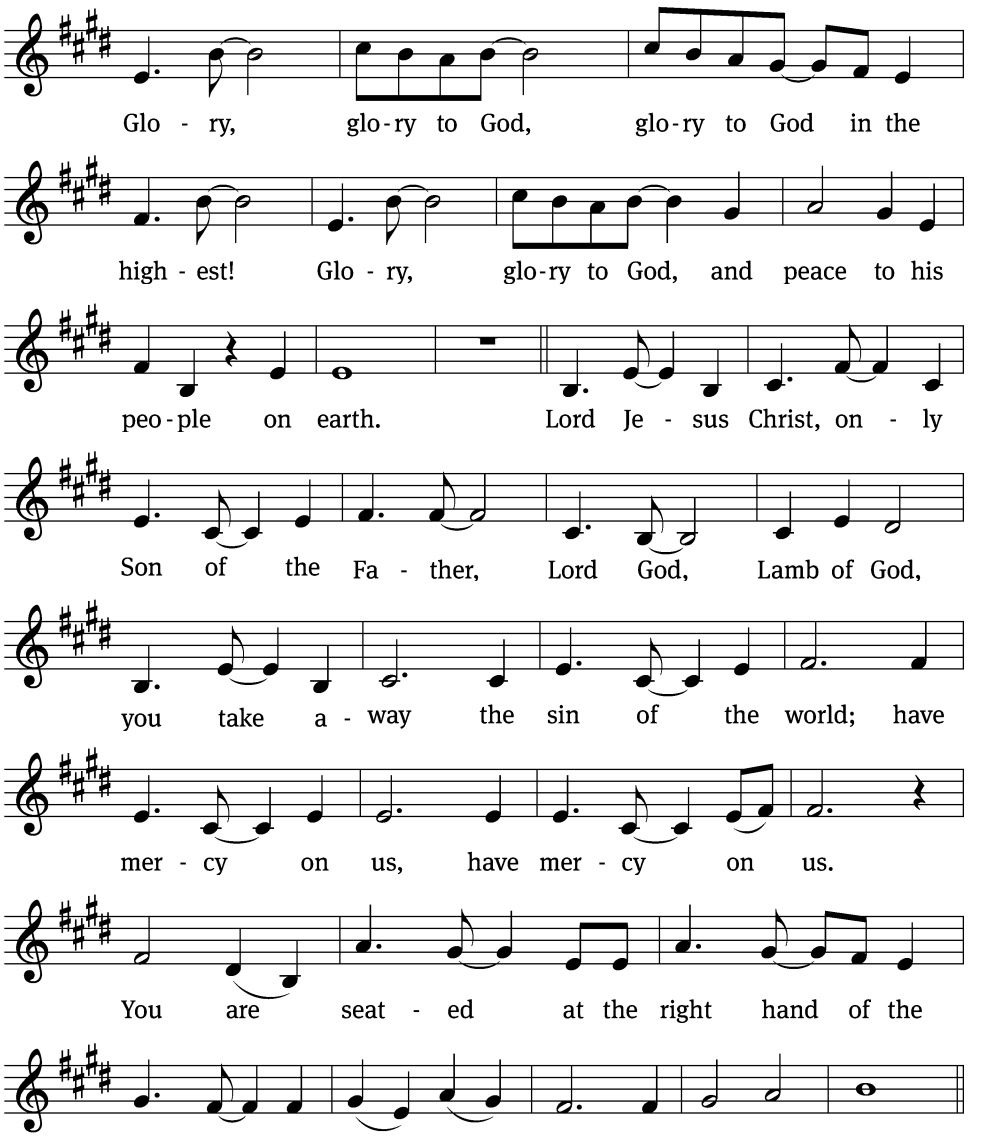
You are at peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest
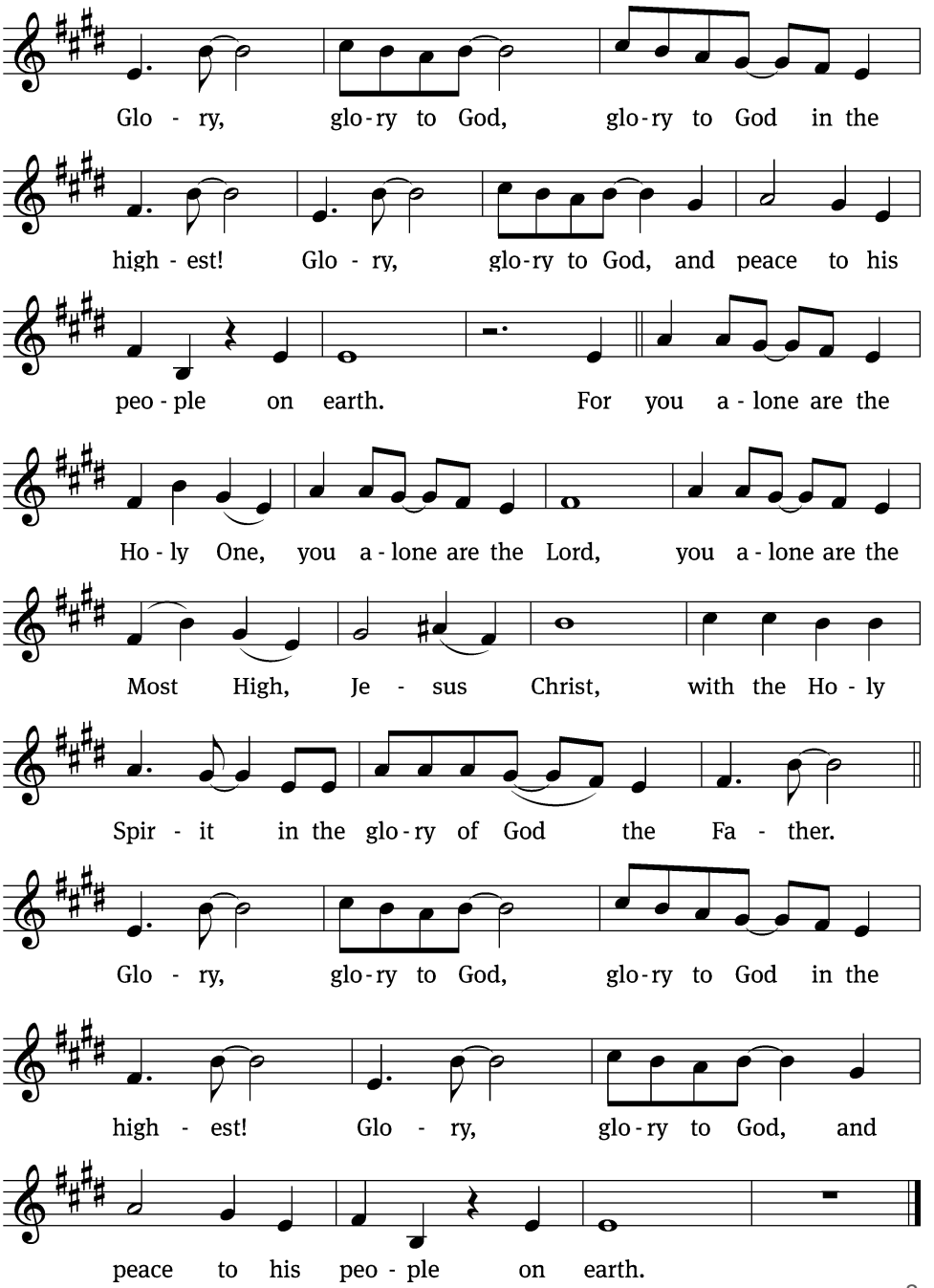
The congregation and choir will all join in together on the first refrain. The congregation is encouraged to join in on the verses.

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: "glory be to God on high."




Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo-ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Continued


Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together into one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Though great tribulation masks the identity of Christ's saints on earth, it will be revealed in the serene pastures of heaven.

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no
one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing
before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and
were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud
voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and
the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne
and worshiped God, 12 saying:

"Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they,
and where did they come from?"

[14]I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;
they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the
Lamb. [15]Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.
[16]'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,'
nor any scorching heat.
[17]For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

1 John 3:1–3

Though we are the objects of our Father's lavish love, what we are remains hidden from sight until Christ himself is revealed for our full sight.
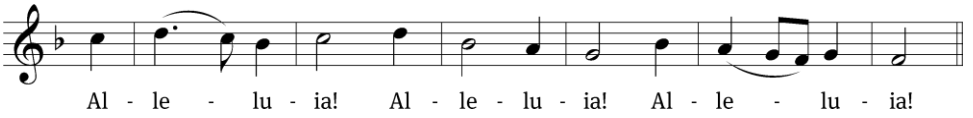
[1]See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be
called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does
not know us is that it did not know him. [2]Dear friends, now we are children
of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know
that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
[3]All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
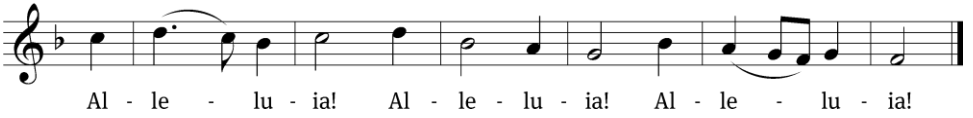
Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10

After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.



Alleluia. In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Alleluia.



For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken "Alleluia!" and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

[1]Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, [2]and he began to teach them.

He said:

[3]"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[4]Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
[5]Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
[6]Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
[7]Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
[8]Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
[9]Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

The blessedness of Christ's saints is hidden for now, just as it was for all those who have followed him.
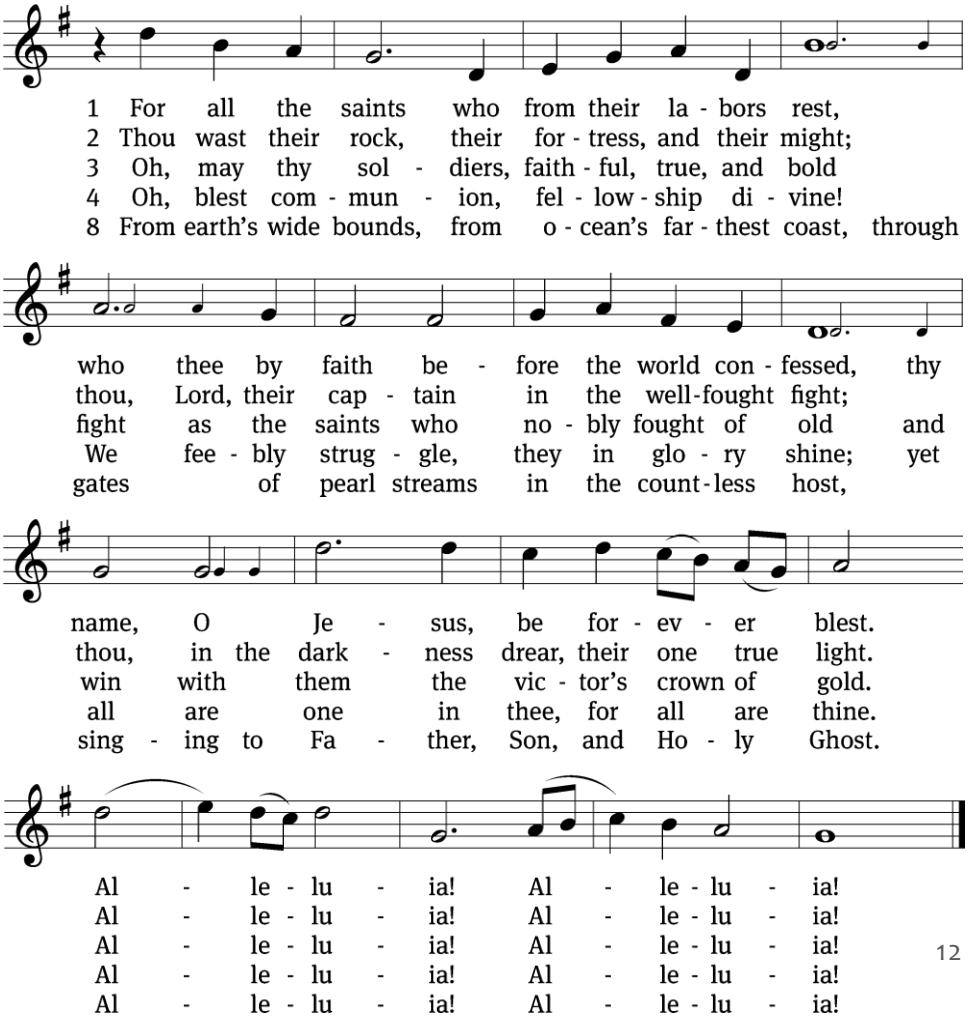
[10]Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11]"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [12]Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

For All the Saints sts. 1–4, 8



Sermon

Revelation 7:9-17

Please stand

Nicene Creed

Credo

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 and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

Please be seated

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!
Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The pastor will speak the prayer of the church, and the congregation will join to say the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Sacrament



We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

1. *Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),*
2. *Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and*
3. *Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).*

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper. *1 Cor. 11:28*

I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

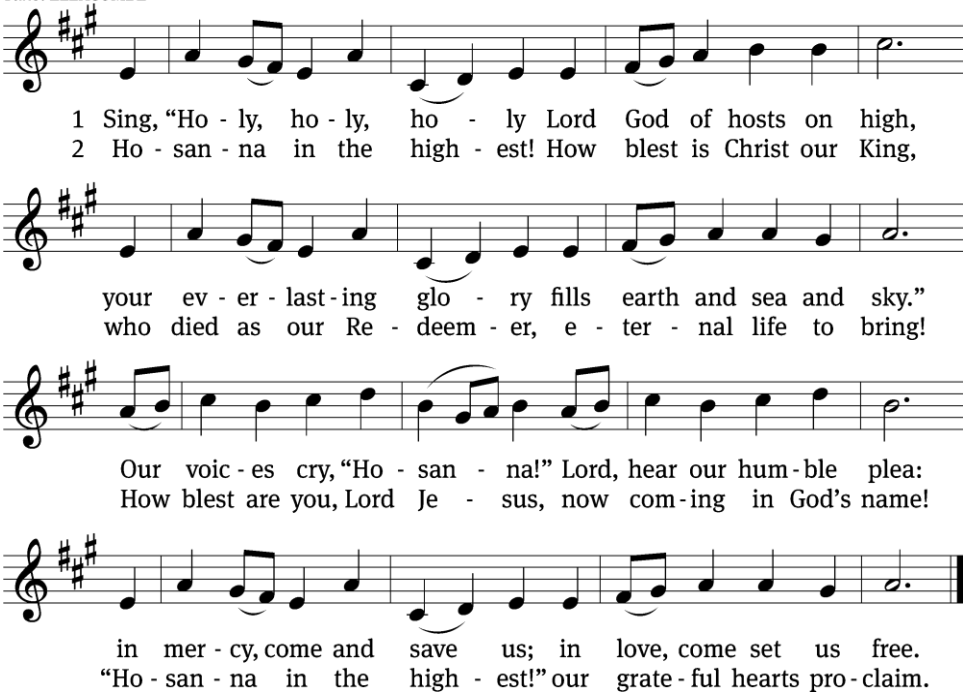
The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ. *1 Cor. 11:29*

Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body. *1 Cor. 10:16*

Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. *1 Cor. 10:17*

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Tune: ELLACOMBE



Sanctus means "holy." This canticle echoes the song that the seraphim (six-winged angels) sang before Isaiah. The angels sang the triple "holy," giving glory to our Triune God. The *Sanctus* has been used in celebration of the Lord's Supper since the second century.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

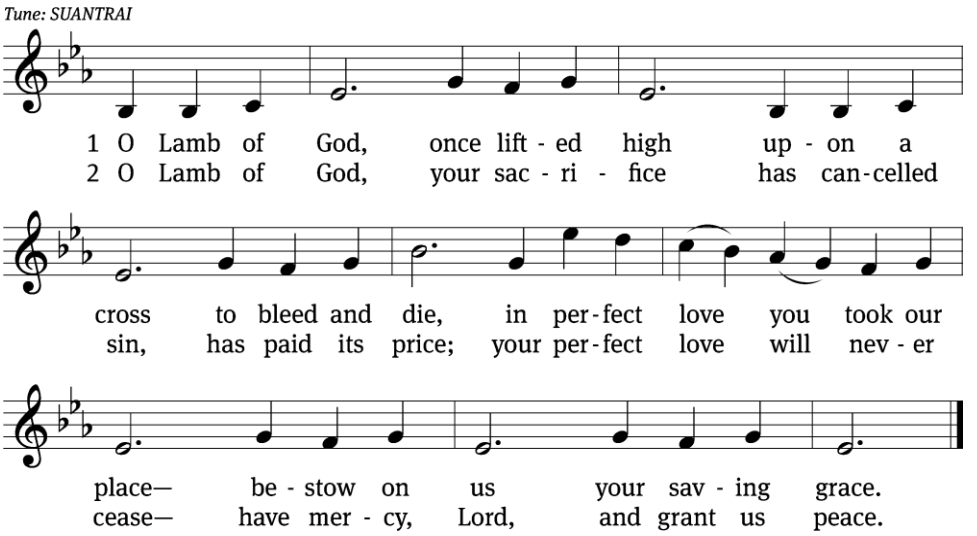
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.
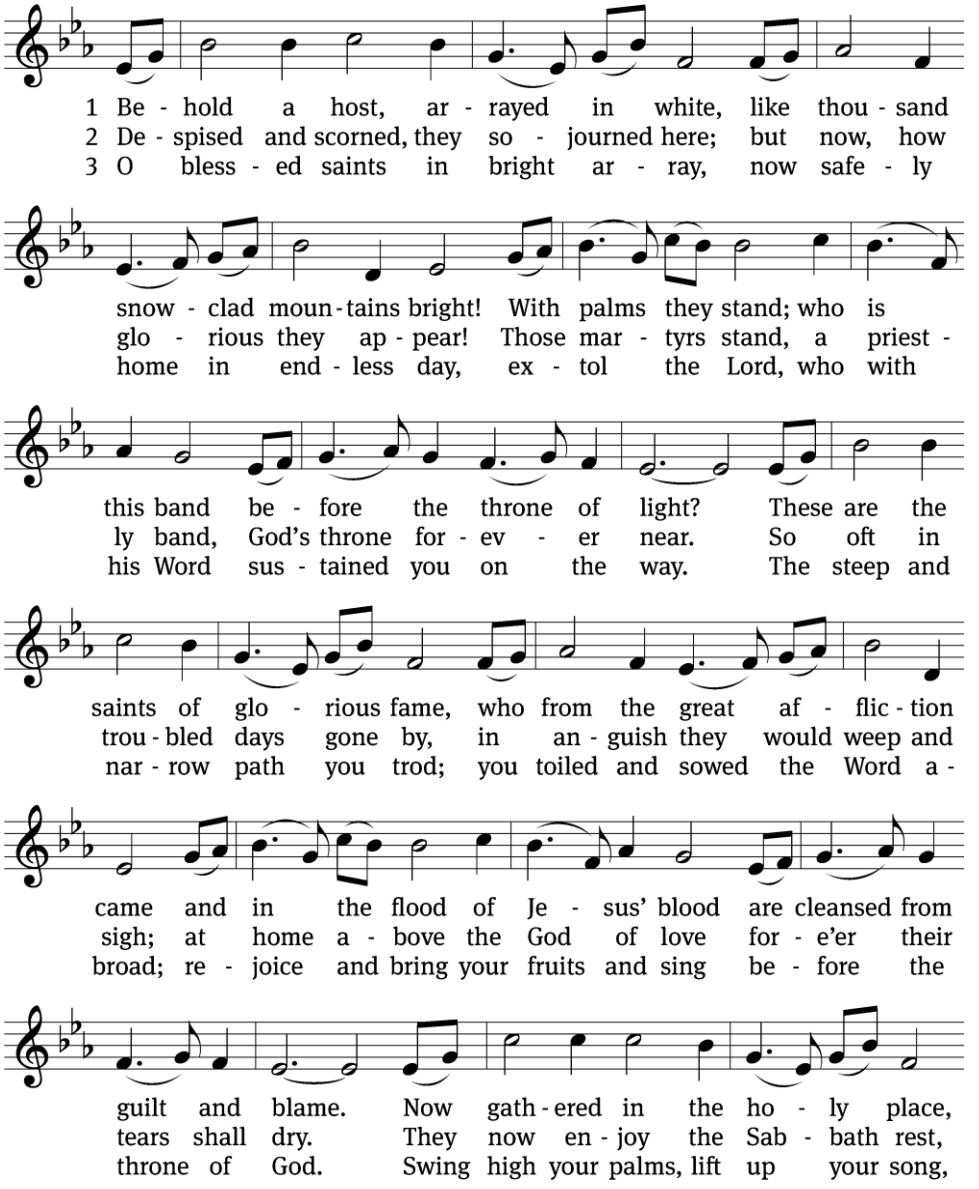


Text: Michael D. Schultz
Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.
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Tune: Public domain

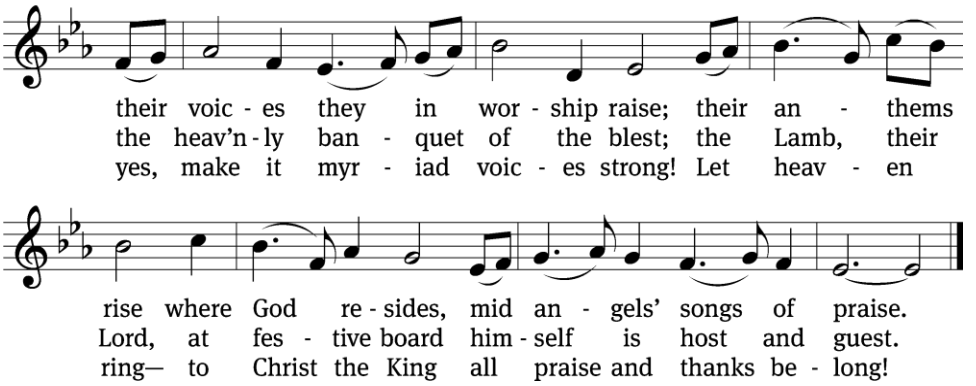
Distribution

Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.

Distribution Hymn

Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

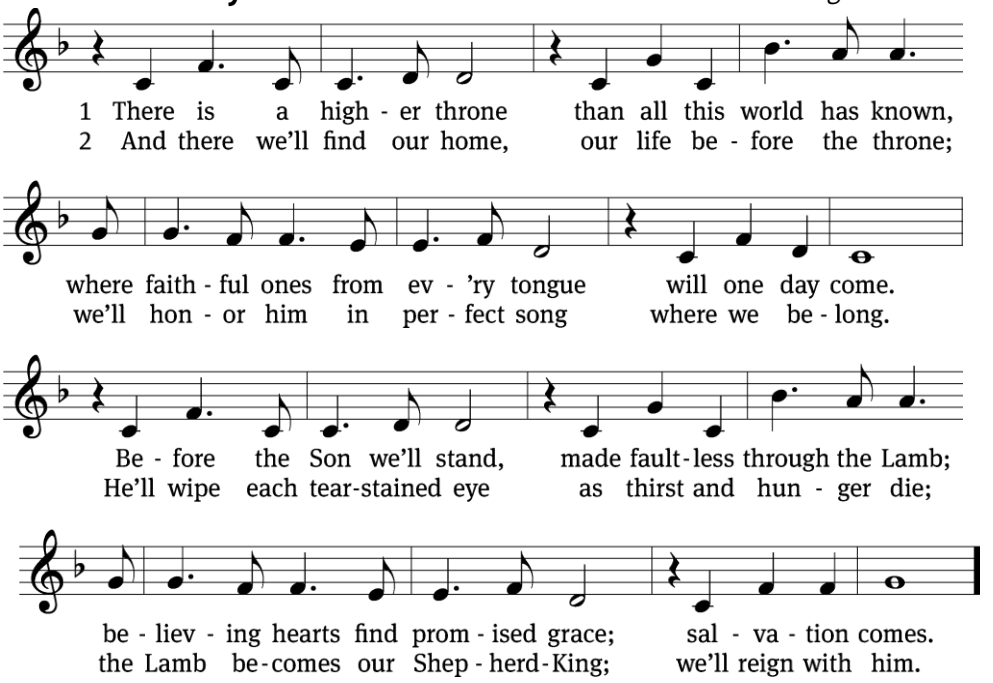


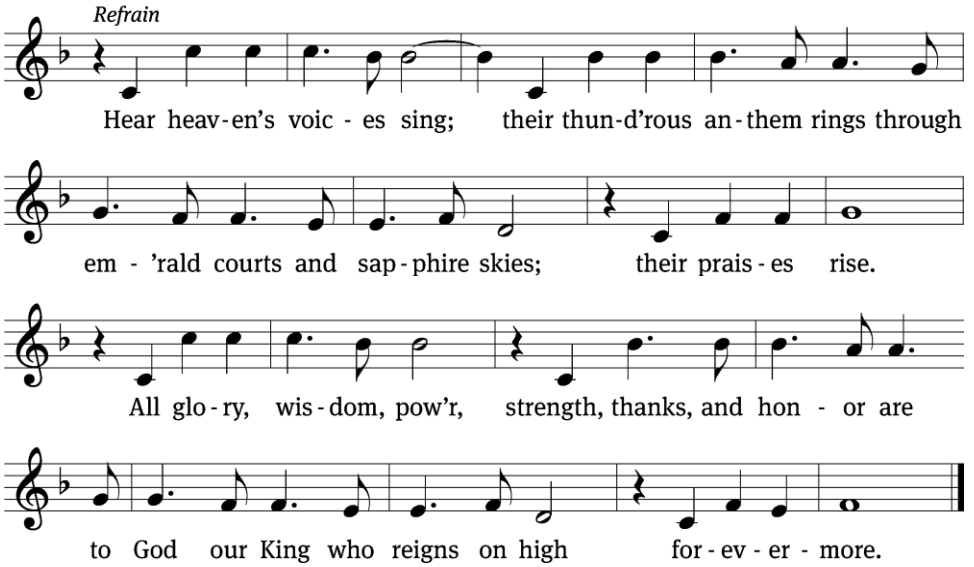


Text: Hans Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

There Is a Higher Throne





Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980
Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980
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Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

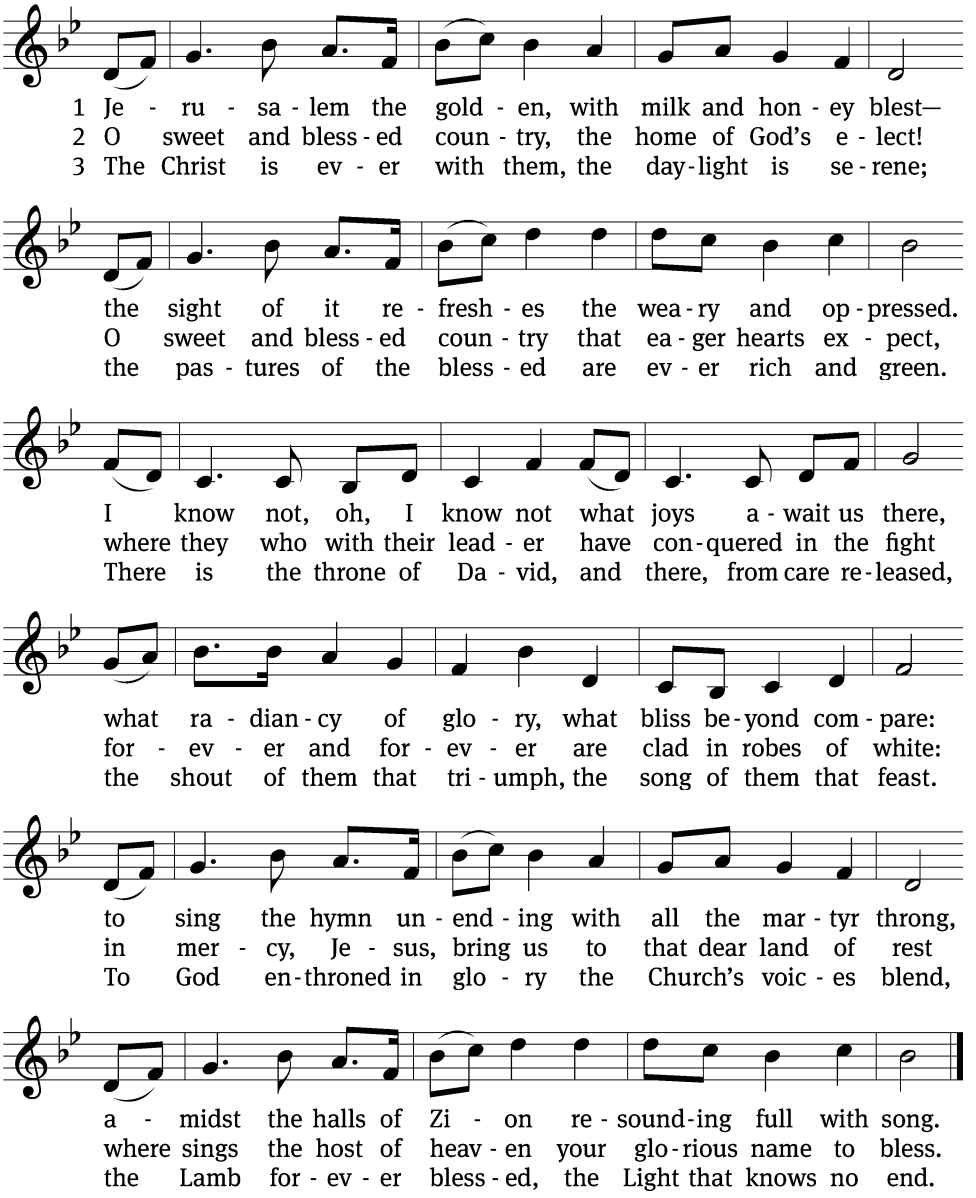
Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

Numbers 6:22-27

Hymn

Jerusalem the Golden



Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.
Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text and tune: Public domain

You're Invited

We're so glad you were able to worship with us today! You are invited to join us for snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We'd love to get to know you better.

Foundations of Faith Class

Foundations is for everyone: people interested in becoming members, those looking to build their faith, or the curious observer who wants to study the Bible without feeling obligated to join a church. This study is Bible-based and discussion-centered. Classes can be arranged to fit personal schedules.



To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org) or scan the QR code. Childcare is available upon request.

Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.



Wednesday Meals/

We have a few slots still open for Wednesday dinners. Please consider providing a meal this semester. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. You can sign up on the table in the entryway or contact Judy Limpert at 507-273-5535 if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Dinner- November 18th

On Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 PM, Peace is hosting a Thanksgiving, potluck-style meal for students and members alike. Students and members can sign up to bring food for the meal. If you're interested in providing food, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food and even better conversation.

Bake Sale

Peace Campus Ministry will be holding a Bake Sale on Tuesday, November 3rd from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm in the Tech Library to fund their mission trip. They are asking for donations of baked goods. If you'd like to donate, please sign up on the table in the entryway. Please have your baked goods to church no later than tomorrow evening, November 2nd. Separating items into plastic bags/individual portions is greatly appreciated but not required. Any questions, contact Ella Erdmann, Campus Ministry Secretary, 920-572-683.

Pickleball Tournament

Peace Campus Ministry is hosting a Pickleball Tournament on Saturday, November 8th from 2:00 – 5:00 PM at the Gates Tennis Center. Students and members are invited to join in.

Baby Shower

The ladies of the congregation are invited to a baby shower on November 8th at 1:00 PM, honoring Lillian Beiring and baby Josephine. It will be a potluck style lunch. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

The semester events are found below. All these events are in addition to the weekly Wednesday dinner and Bible study. You can find more information about events on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Sunday Nov 1:	Baking for Bake Sale
Tuesday, Nov 3:	Bake Sale
Saturday, Nov 7:	Pickleball Tournament
Wednesday, Nov 18:	Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, Dec 5:	Christmas Canvassing and Dinner
Friday, Dec 11:	Christmas Caroling

This Week at Peace

Sunday, November 1st
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Baking for the Bake Sale following worship

Tuesday, November 3rd
Bake Sale at Tech Library 10:00 am 4:00 pm

Wednesday, November 4th
Dinner and Bible Study 6:00 pm

Saturday, November 7th
Pickleball Tournament 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Sunday, November 8th
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am
Beiring Baby Shower 1:00 pm

Serving Our Lord and Us Today

Usher Team 1 Craig Hughes, Andy Hastreiter
Counter – Cody Stopel
Livestream/Music – Judy Limpert
Snacks – Leslie Thyrion / Janet Olson
Children's Ministry – Carolina Grady



Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, November 4th

Student Dinner – Vlahos

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, November 8th

Usher Team 2 – Steve Krug
Counter – Scott Miers
Livestream/Music – Zack Sickmann
Snacks – Mary Ann Krug
Children's Ministry – Kenzie Hnilicka

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Welch's Cell: 906-231-6835

Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.