Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026
Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 46

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

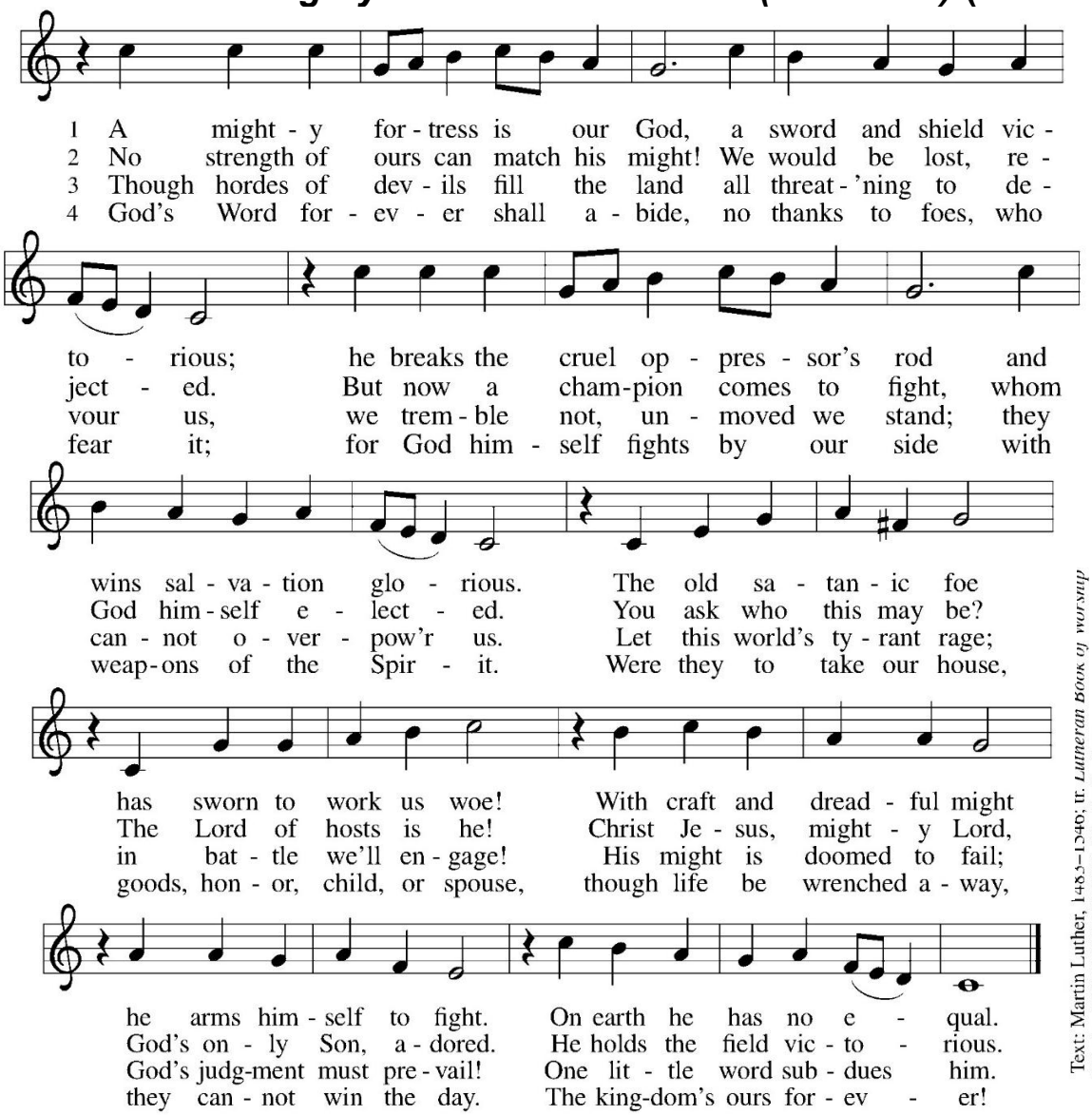
THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert…you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric)* (ELW 504)

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.**

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

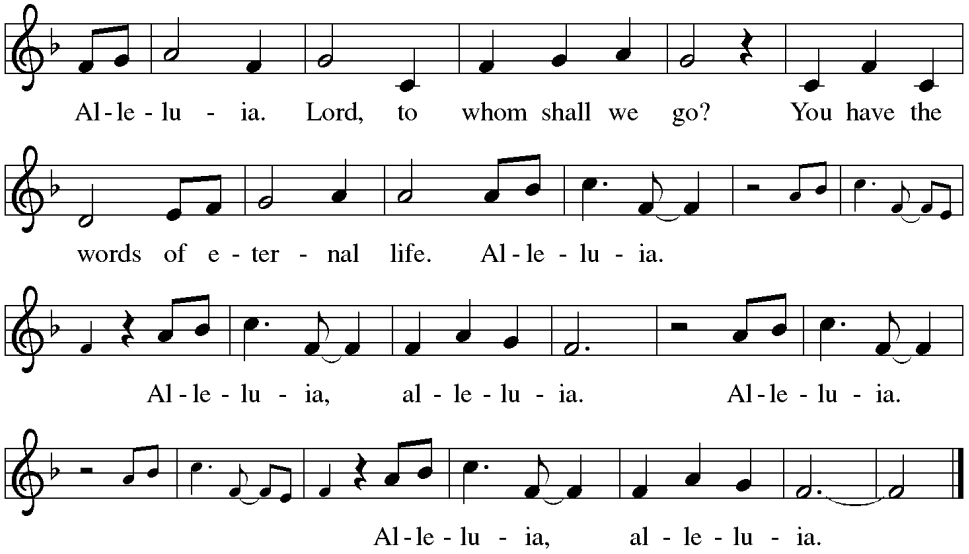
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law,
so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to
God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for
through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from the law, the
righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets,
22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For
there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they
are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through
faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance
he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the
present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one
who has the faith of Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through
what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that
a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

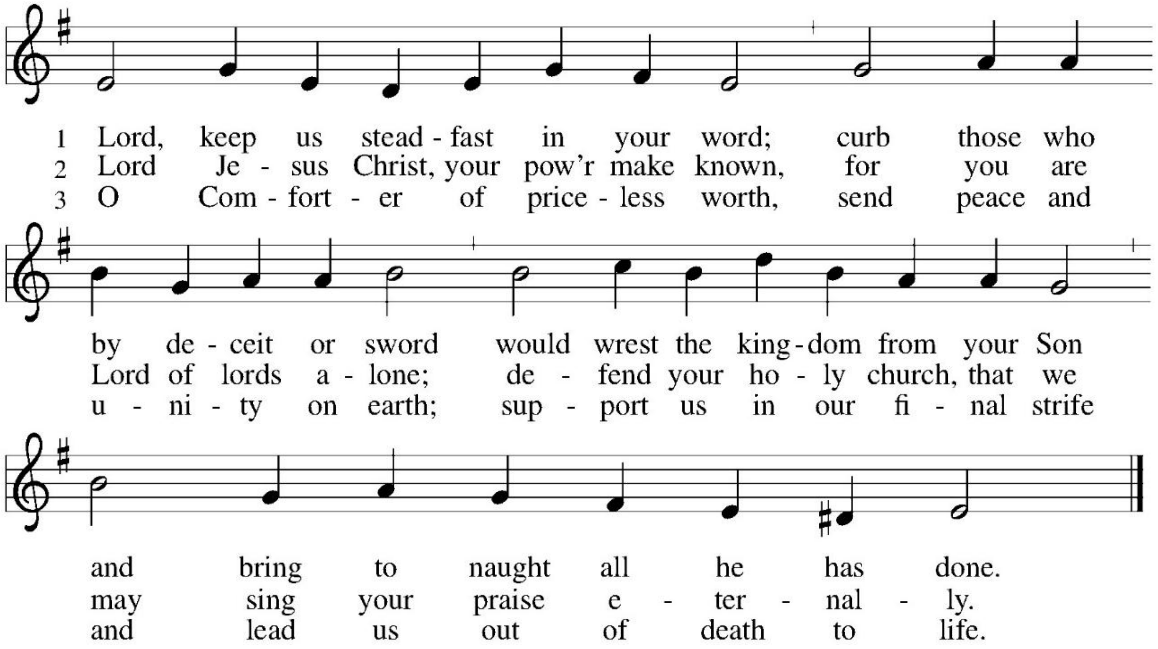
The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517)



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

CREED

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

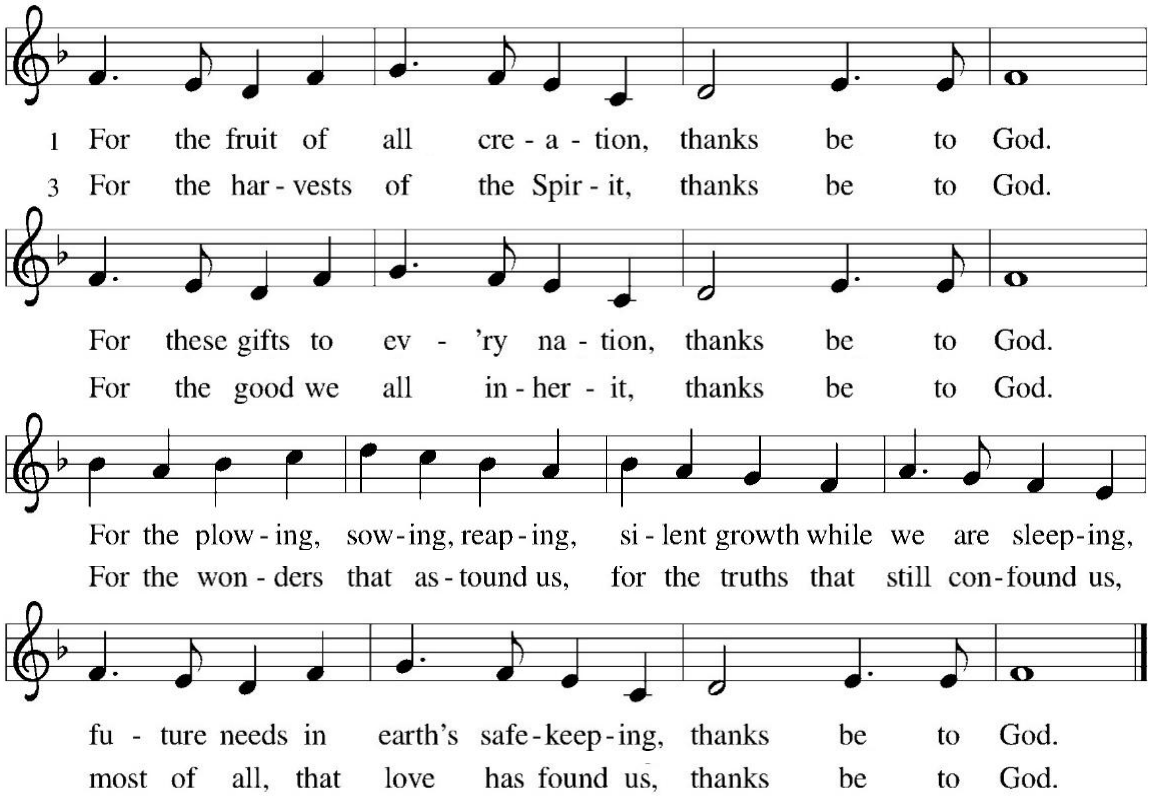
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

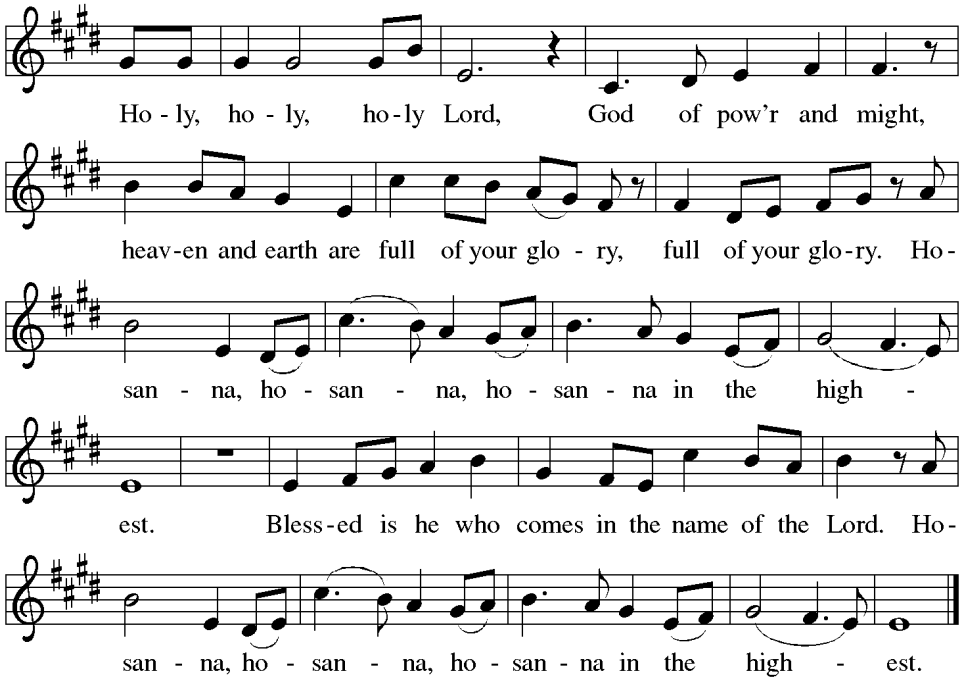
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos…Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation… through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

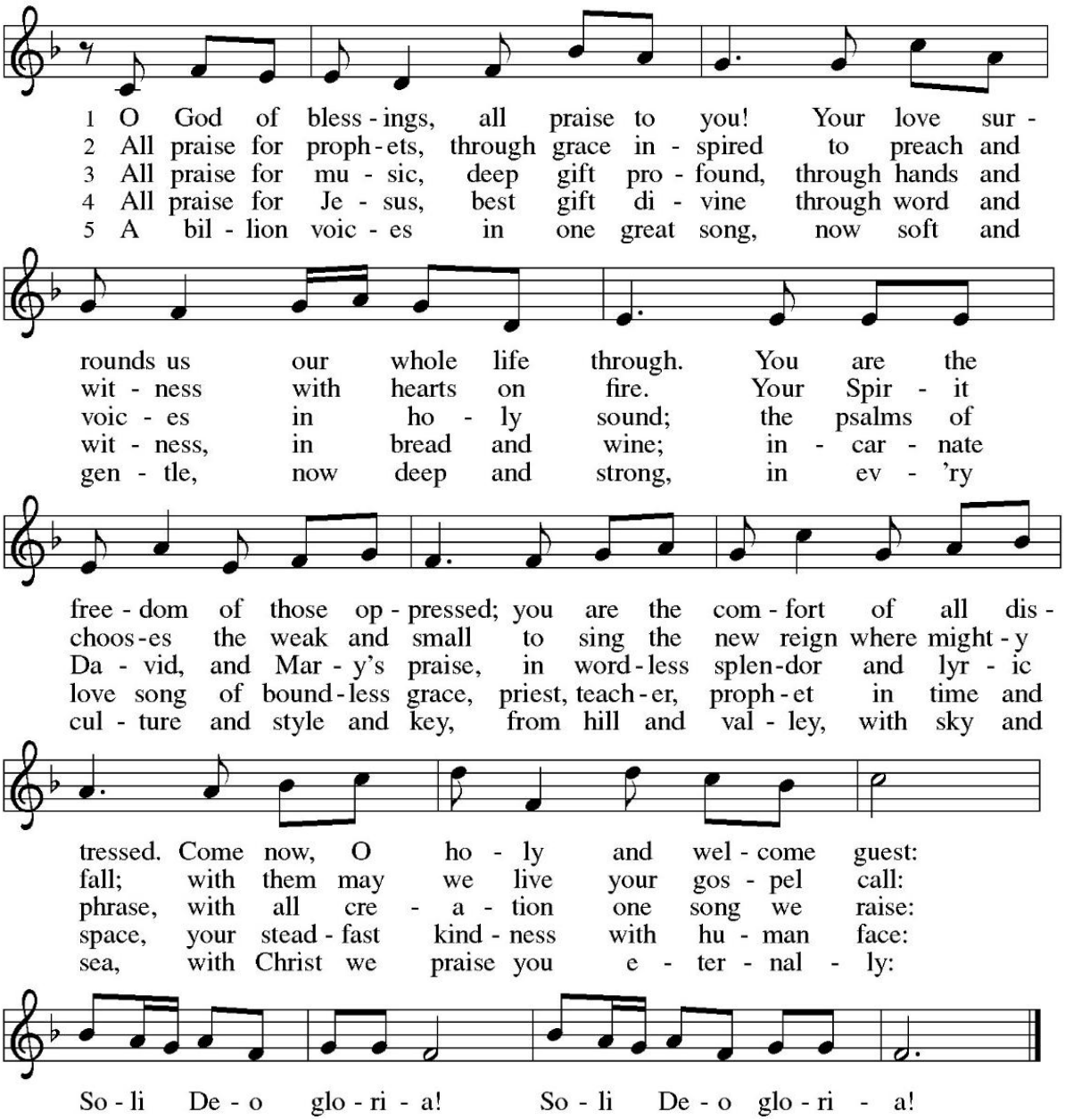
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Soli Deo Gloria* (ELW 878)

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. All materials printed and livestreamed under Augsburg Fortress License: SBT007061 and OneLicense: A-712026

Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October Food Pantry Theme is "'Meat' the Need" – canned meats, tuna, stew, hamburger/tuna helper
- Quarterly statements are in your mailboxes.
- W-ELCA: Short meeting after church today, to vote on yearly disbursements
- November 3rd: Rachel Circle 4pm @ Bethany conference room
- November 8th: 'Card Run' Fellowship Fun after worship service
- November 15th: 'Thanks offering' during our Sunday church service
- Thursdays Bible Study: 9am @ Bethany. This week we study the books of 1st & 2nd Samuel.
- We have Kwik Trip Scrip cards for sale. Choose between Gas or Food cards.
- Wednesday: 9 am - Quilting
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Please and thank you.
- Tuesday: AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany. Last meeting of the month is an Open meeting, all friends and family affected by alcoholism are welcome.

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for the family and friends who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Anna Kirkwood.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Kandy Horrer, Lindsey Dryer, Randy Fenwick, Jean Orlowski, Dawn VanMeter, Ken Adams, Sonja Haske, Shirley Wehman, Mike Schultz, Sandy Hempel, Amy Andres Peterson (daughter of Tom & Roxanne Andres), Holly Berry, Dean Allard, Kalie Geitner (Galen & Janenne Lingl), Katie & Doug Johnson, Becky Bailey, Fred Wehman, Steve Werth, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Marilyn Wetley,

and others we silently name.

Electronic giving is available via Vanco, using this QR Code: