St. Timothy
Lutheran Church, ELCA
OF GRAND ISLAND, NY



**November 15, 2026**
**The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

## GATHERING

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **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.**

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING HYMN** Christ Be Our Light **ELW 715**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. [Refrain}

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

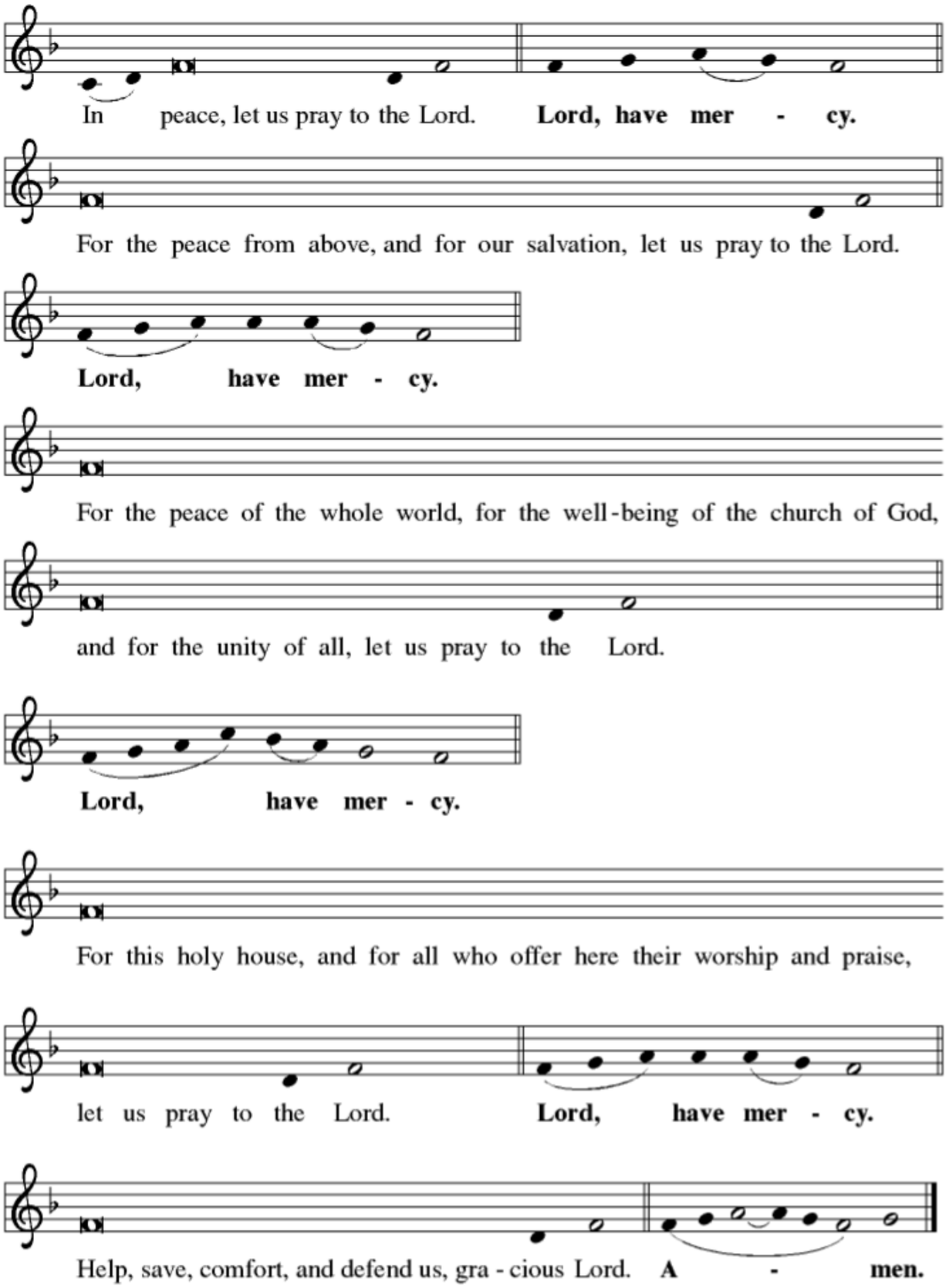
3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

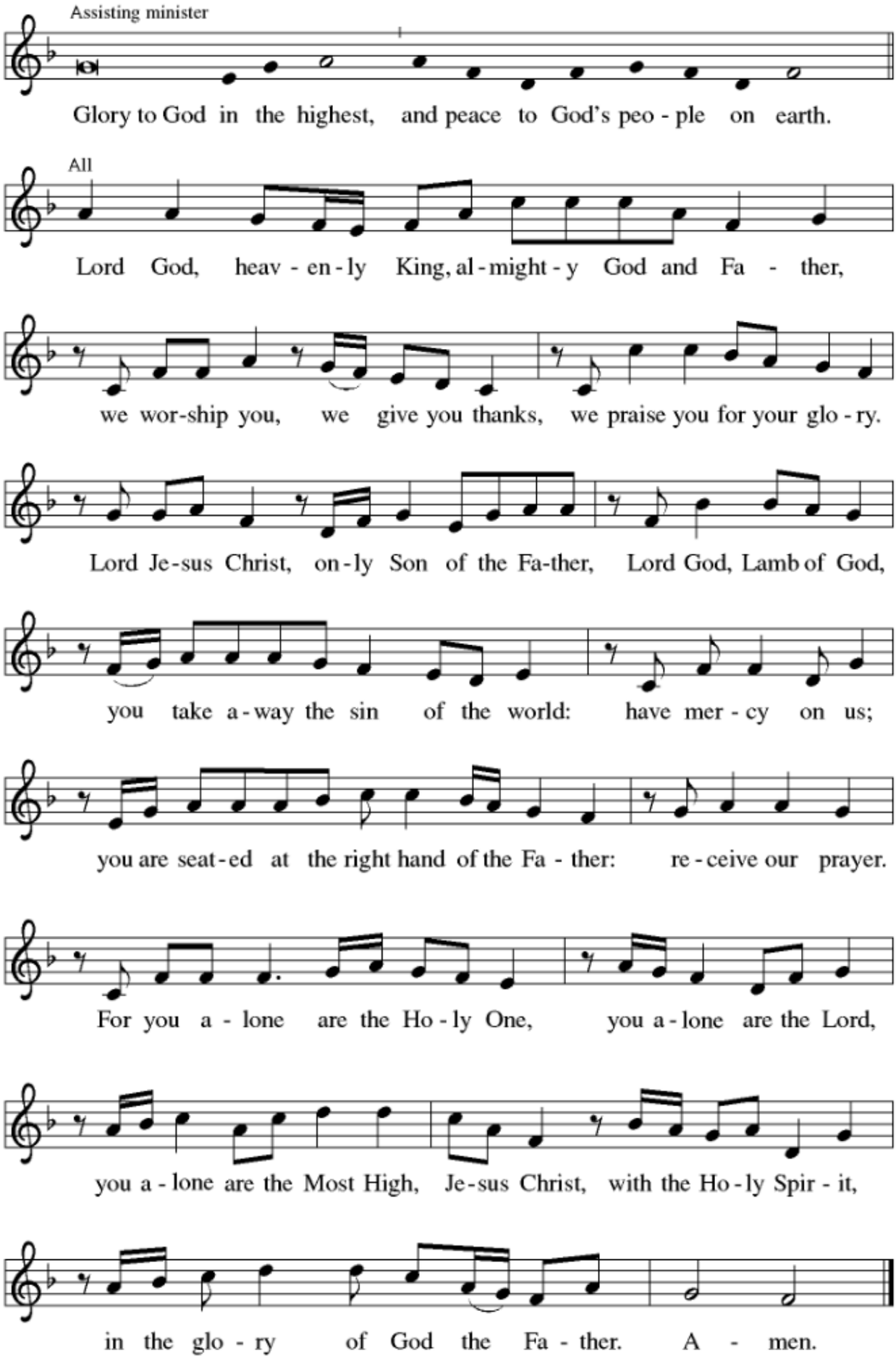
5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]

**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 pg. 138**




**GLORY TO GOD** **ELW pg. 139**




**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **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.**

**<u>WORD</u>**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be 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.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps, and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their 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.

14 The 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.
15 That 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,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I 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.
18 Neither 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.

R. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
**from one generation to another.**
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
**from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
**"Turn back, O children of earth."**
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like

yesterday when it is past
**and like a watch in the night;**
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
**they fade away suddenly like the grass:**
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
**we are afraid because of your wrath.**
8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
12 So teach us to number our days
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

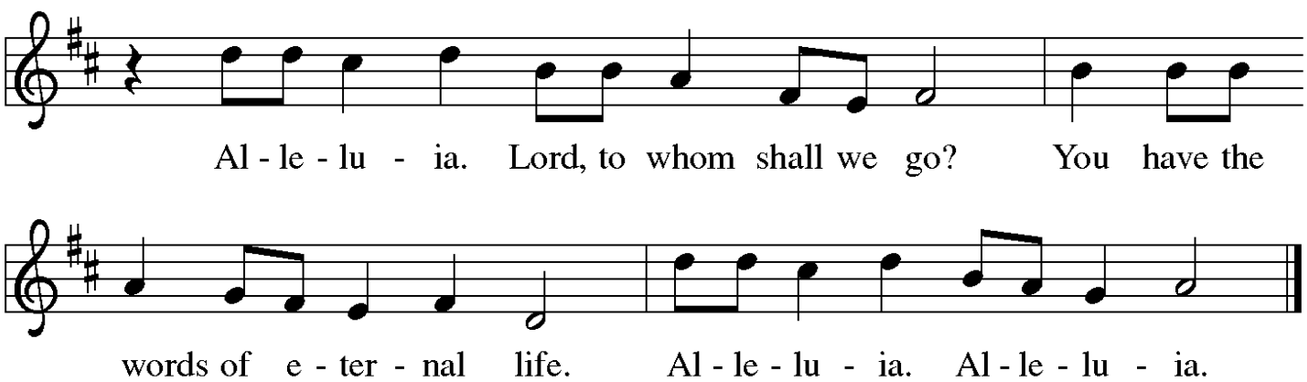
**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When 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! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But 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. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**




**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:14-30

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **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; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

[20] Then 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.’ [21] 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.’ [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, [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.’ ”

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

*You may be seated.*

**SERMON** Pastor Adam Arends

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us **ELW 707**

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your life-blood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that hast freely given
blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil
with your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures,
warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed
'tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given
to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry --
in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you."

4 Lord of glory, you have bought us
with your life-blood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
hope, to stay our souls on you:

but, oh, best of all your graces,
with your love our love renew.

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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**
*After each petition ends with the words,* "God in your mercy" *we respond,* **"hear our prayer."**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**
P. The peace of Christ be with you always.
**C. And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**
Lord God, **extend our faith so that even when we fail to see the fruit of our planted seeds, we may have the assurance that every inch of soil overturned will lead to a harvest someday. Amen.** We now bring forth our offering as a seed which God will nurture. *

**OFFERTORY HYMN** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful **ELW 182**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather the harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

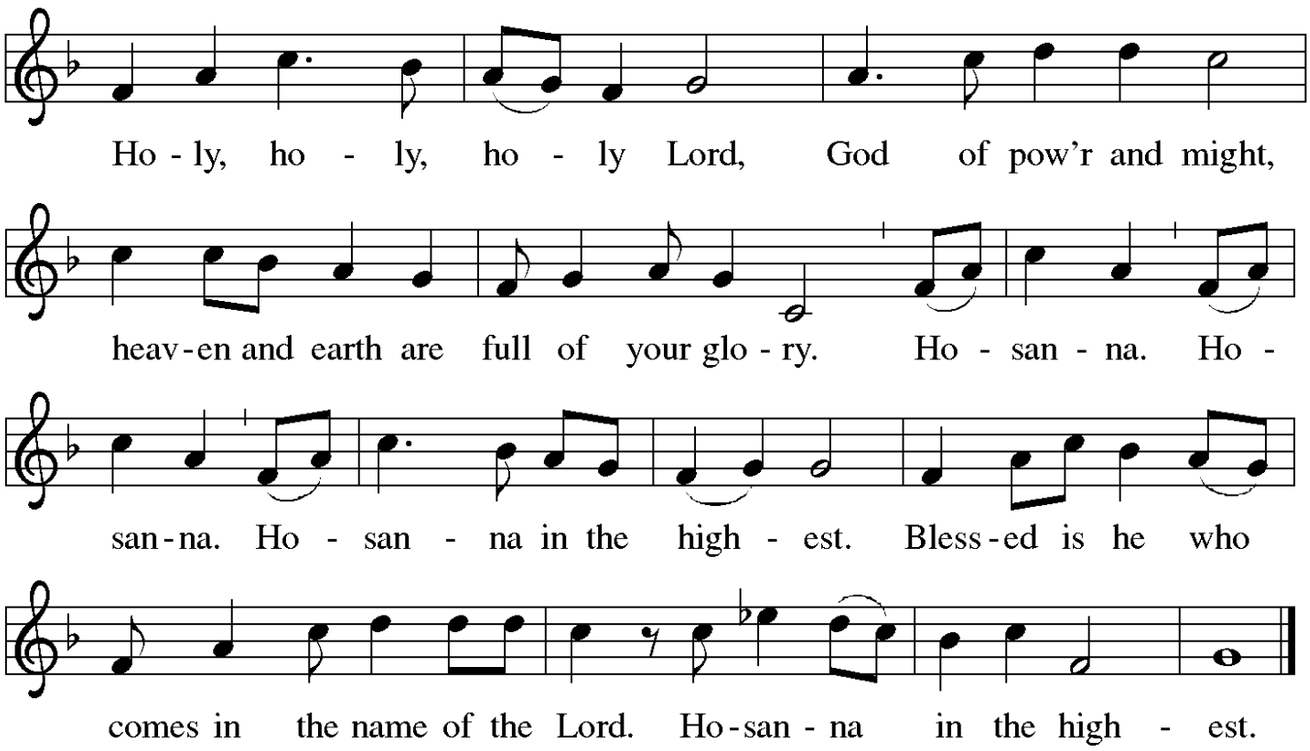
**OFFERTORY PRAYER**
A. Let us pray. **Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**
P. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**
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 your 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 all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed…

… Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

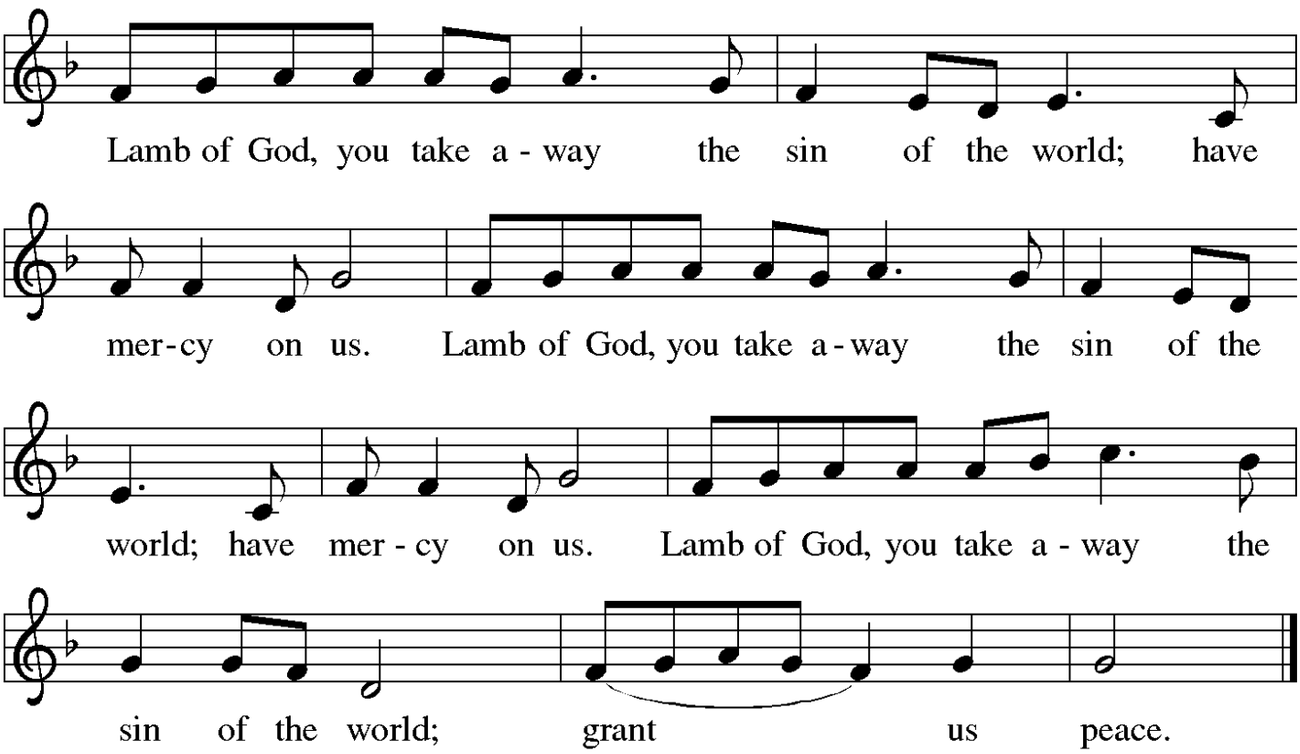
**THE LORD'S PRAYER**
**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;**
**and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those**

**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**
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

**DISTRIBUTION**
*We invite all to the Lord's supper. You can pick up a cup as you come forward or use the elements at the entrance to the sanctuary. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are also available.*

**LAMB OF GOD**




**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Let Us Break Bread Together** **ELW 471**

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

**As the Grains of Wheat** **ELW 465**

Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread, so may all our people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. [Refrain]

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come, when all creation shares this feast with you. [Refrain]

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**
The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**
P. 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. **Amen.**

## SENDING

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN** O God Our Help in Ages Past **ELW 632**

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they 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.

**DISMISSAL**
A. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**C. Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to St. Timothy!** St. Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors and its arms in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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* Offering prayer from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, by Claiborne, Wilson-Hartgrove, Okoro; Zondervan, 2010.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• Please take a moment to sign up for the dessert smorgasbord on 11/22 if you're able to help. The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held at 7 PM, followed by desserts. Thank you!

• St. Timothy is joining our Child Care Center in a collection for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation. The items that are especially in demand are peanut butter, jelly (plastic jars), pancake mix, syrup, pasta, pasta sauce (plastic jars), mac and cheese, canned meat, canned beans and stews, instant rice and potatoes, instant oatmeal, canned low sugar fruits, canned low sodium vegetables, and shelf stable milk, as well as personal care items like bar soap, dish soap, shampoo, hand soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and toilet paper.

• Breakfast with Santa is coming up on December 19th! Tickets will go on sale December 1st at $12 for adult meals, $8 for kids 3-12, and free for kids under 3. Seatings will be 9-10 AM and 11 AM-12 PM with a holiday sing-along at 10:30.