



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Unfailing Light Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 26, 2025
7:00 p.m.


GATHERING

*The disciples urged Jesus strongly, saying,
“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”
So he went in to stay with them.*

WELCOME


CALL TO WORSHIP

Assisting Minister




O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister




From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister




You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

All




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister *All*



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We



bless your ho - ly name, O God.

EVENING HYMN



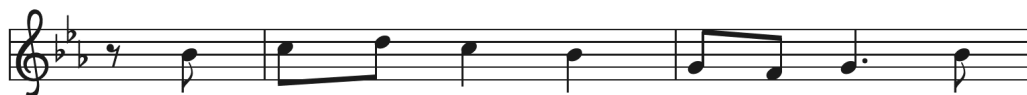
1 Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each
2 You walk with us a - long the way, your
3 Re - freshed by sab - bath rest this night, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing
Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now at
wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ, un -



on the night, and all cre - a - tion sings your praise.
close of day, our un - known guest, our host and feast.
fail - ing Light, where peace and jus - tice are at home



You formed the moon and fired the sun, you
Grant those who share this eve - ning meal the
and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and bind - ing us to
faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that hearts might see what
sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O mer - ci - ful, im -



your dear Son, re - newed our life, de - stroyed our death.
eyes con - ceal: by grace your pres - ence we re - ceive.
mor - tal One, O bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

Text: Susan R. Briebl, b. 1952

Music: CANOPY, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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GREETING

The presiding minister greets the assembly:

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day.
By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness,
give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.

READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly

and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

³ **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

⁴ Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

READING: Philippians 4:4-9

Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel in song.



HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:25-35

The day after he multiplies bread to feed five thousand people, Jesus is pursued by the crowds clamoring for more bread. Recalling the image of manna in the wilderness, Jesus promises to provide the true bread from heaven that will never fail. Jesus himself is that bread of life.

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

²⁵ When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #975 *O God, Whose Word Well-Planted*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

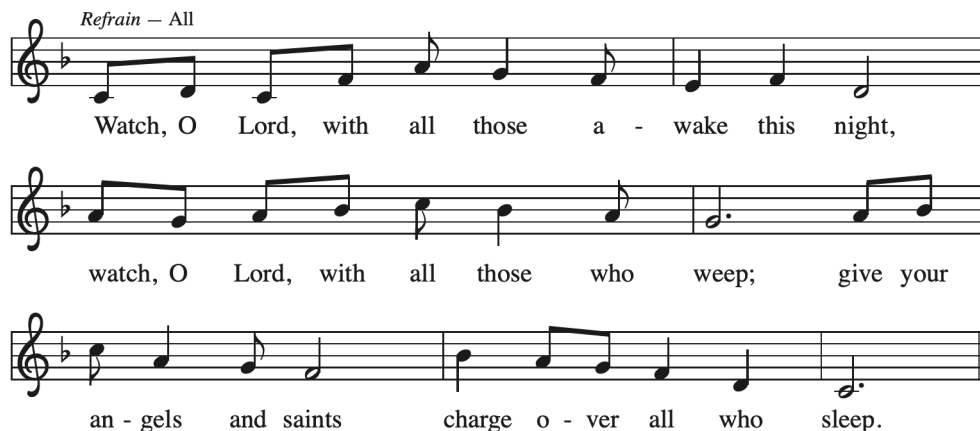
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

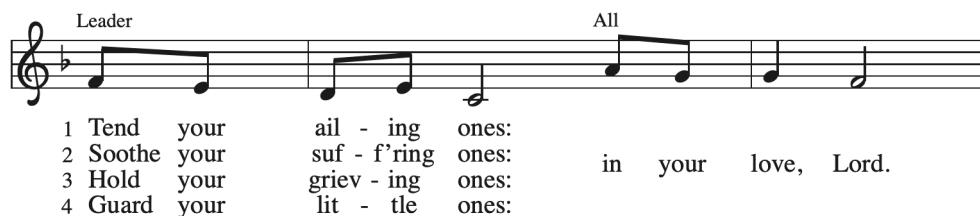
PRAYERS

Refrain — All



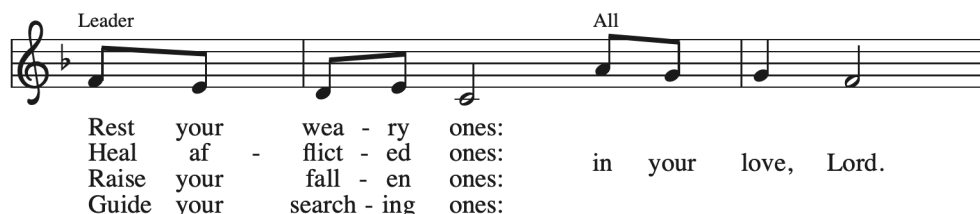
Watch, O Lord, with all those a - wake this night,
 watch, O Lord, with all those who weep; give your
 an - gels and saints charge o - ver all who sleep.

Leader *All*



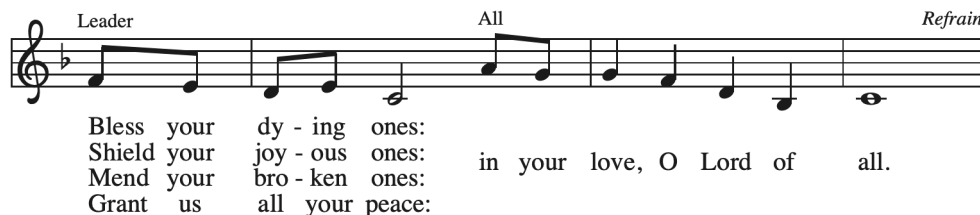
1 Tend your ail - ing ones:
 2 Soothe your suf - f'ring ones: in your love, Lord.
 3 Hold your griev - ing ones:
 4 Guard your lit - tle ones:

Leader *All*



Rest your wea - ry ones:
 Heal af - flict - ed ones: in your love, Lord.
 Raise your fall - en ones:
 Guide your search - ing ones:

Leader *All* *Refrain*



Bless your dy - ing ones:
 Shield your joy - ous ones: in your love, O Lord of all.
 Mend your bro - ken ones:
 Grant us all your peace:

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

*When Jesus was at the table with them,
He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.*

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Daybreak Shelter (including Men's Resale Shop) daybreakshelter.org and Gabriel's Horn (in conjunction with Family Promise of P.C.) www.gabrielshelter.org



If you prefer to give electronically use [our CLC app](#) or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful;

You bring forth food from the earth

And nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger

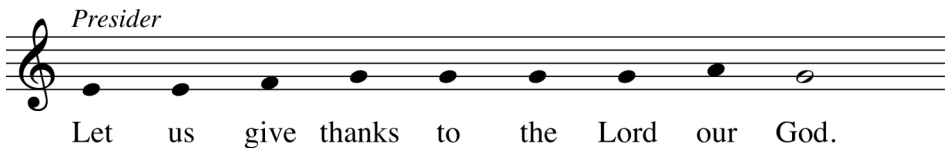
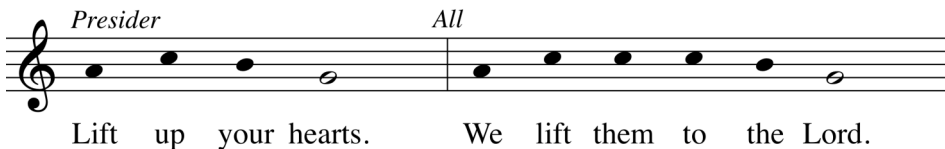
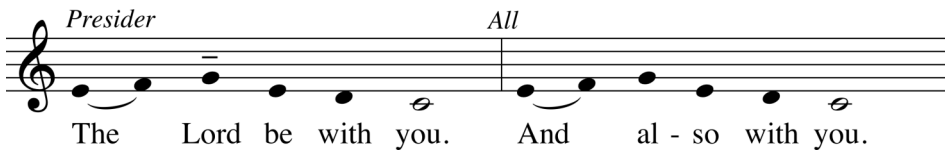
That all may know your care.

Prepare us now to feast upon your mercy:

Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the One.")

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

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.



Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the waters,
across the wilderness,
by night and day,
out of exile,
into the future.



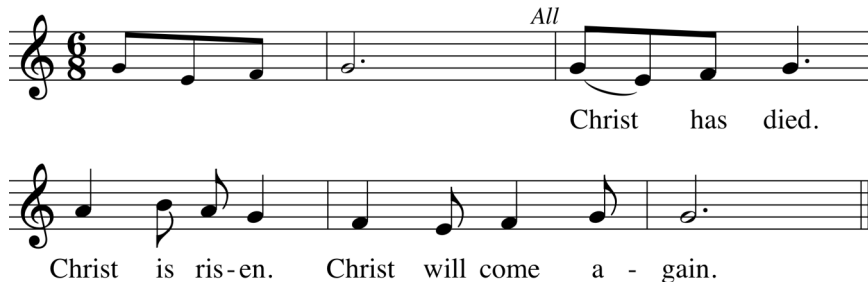
We give you thanks for your Son:
at the heart of human life,
near to those who suffer,
beside the sinner,
among the poor,
with us now.



On the night he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

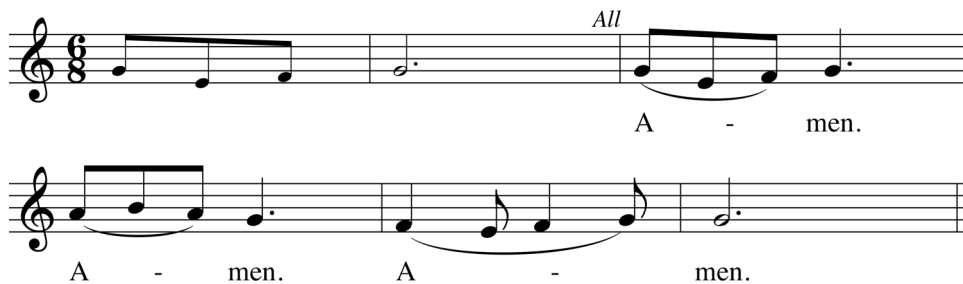
Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in your gathering,
upon this bread,
within this cup,
among your people,
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise,
 and thanks to you, Holy God,
 for your mercy,
 through Christ Jesus,
 by your Spirit,
 in your Church,
 without end.



LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

***Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.*

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored, and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The COMMON CUP is available for anyone who wishes. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #679

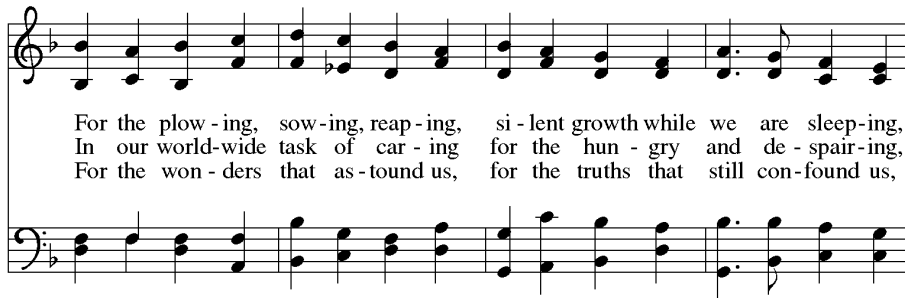
For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

All

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. It begins in 4/4 time and features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Now Lord, you let your
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a
light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

SENDING

*That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem.
They told what had happened on the road
And how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

PRAYER

Creator of the stars of night,
We give you thanks for this gift of life.
Increase our faith and open our eyes
That we might recognize Jesus
In all whom you call us to love and serve.
Abide with us as darkness deepens
And be our hope and highest joy,
Until at last with all your saints
We dwell in your unfailing Light.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this night and always.
Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve.
Thanks be to God.

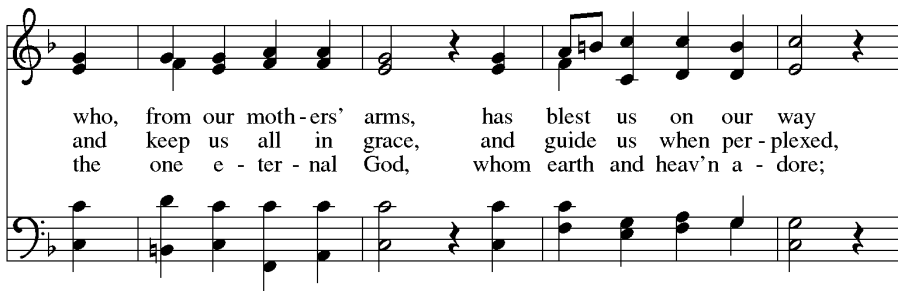
SENDING HYMN ELW #840



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit it blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm, in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

In Everything Give Thanks

Poet: Unknown

For all that God in mercy sends –
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts;
For guidance in our daily walk –
In everything give thanks!

For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for streams and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood –
In everything give thanks!

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning's light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky –
For these and everything we see,
O Lord our hearts we lift to thee;
In everything give thanks!



Worship Leaders

Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch
Lector	Jeri Simms
Communion Assistants	Amy Knauff Holly Knauff
Ushers	Doc Knauff
Lights & Sound	Tony Reinhold
Livestream	