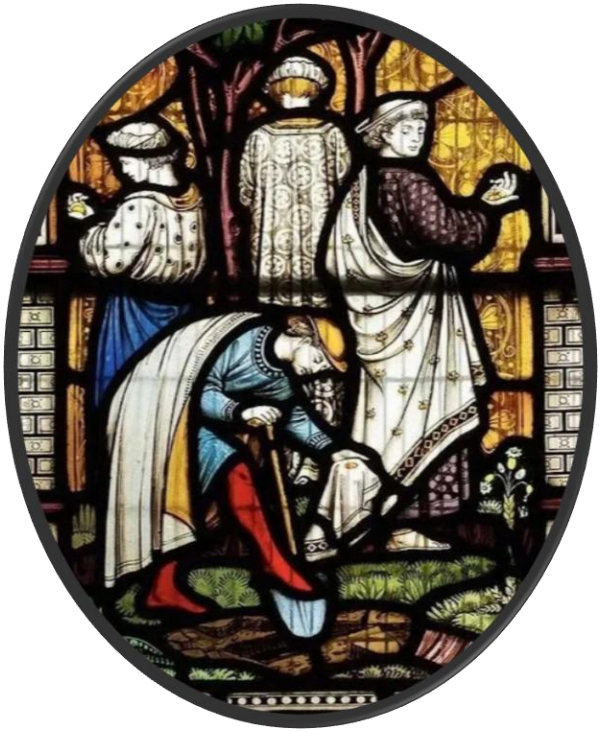
st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 14/15, 2026

As We Gather

As we reach the end of the Church Year, there is a heightened sense of urgency in all the Readings, hymns, and other propers. These remind us that Christ will certainly come again, that this return draws closer with each passing day, and that we do not know when that day will be. Therefore, we are to be ready and prepared for Jesus to come again—and to meet Him at our own death. Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians in the Epistle, warns that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Paul warns against complacency, exhibited by those who say, "There is peace and security" (v. 3). In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, warning again that we do not know when He, the master, will return; the precious gift of faith must be invested in His means of grace now (Matthew 25:14–30). In the Old Testament Reading, the prophet Zephaniah warns about complacency and misjudging God's character, so that he can point us to God's true nature: "a mighty one who will save"

Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn **"Soon and Very Soon"**

Verse 1
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

Verse 2
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

Verse 3
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

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Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

P Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
C **for no one living is righteous before You.**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;
C **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

P I stretch out my hands to You;
C **my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.**

P Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!
C **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

P For Your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!
C **In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

Confession and Absolution

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading ***Zephaniah 1:7-16***

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods 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 mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
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.

P This is the Word of the Lord
C **Thanks be to God**

Epistle ***1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day

of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4] But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5] For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6] So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

8:00 & 10:30- Choir **"Our Rock and Our Salvation"**
Benjamin White, arr. By Sheldon Curry

Please Stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel ***Matthew 25:14-30***

[14] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground

and hid his master's money. [19] Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20] And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

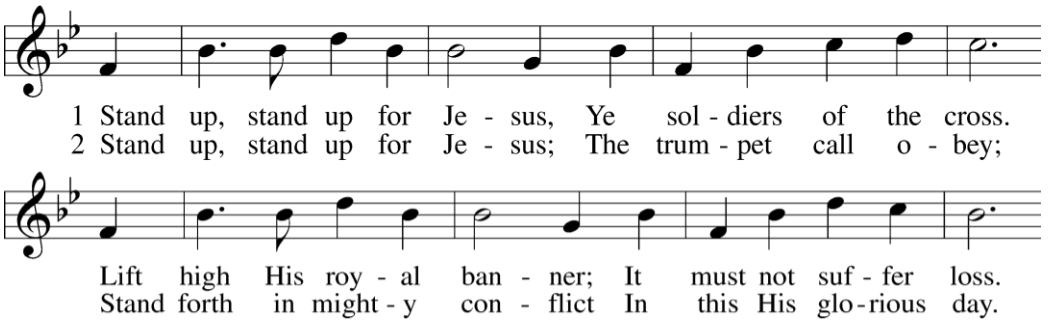
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,

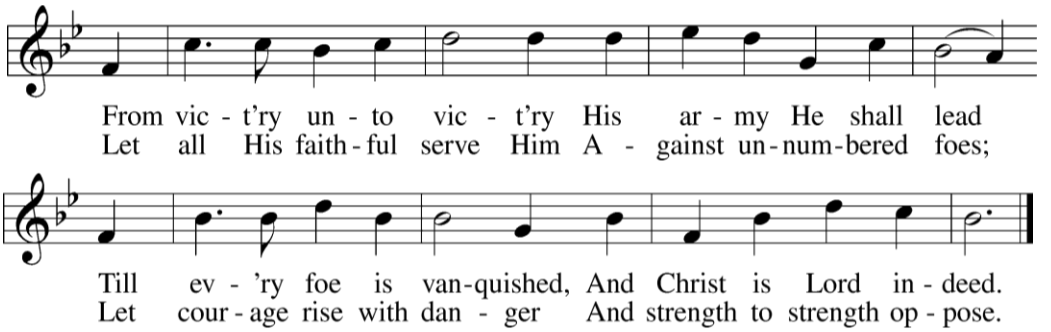
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn **"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"** **LSB 660 (sts 1-2)**



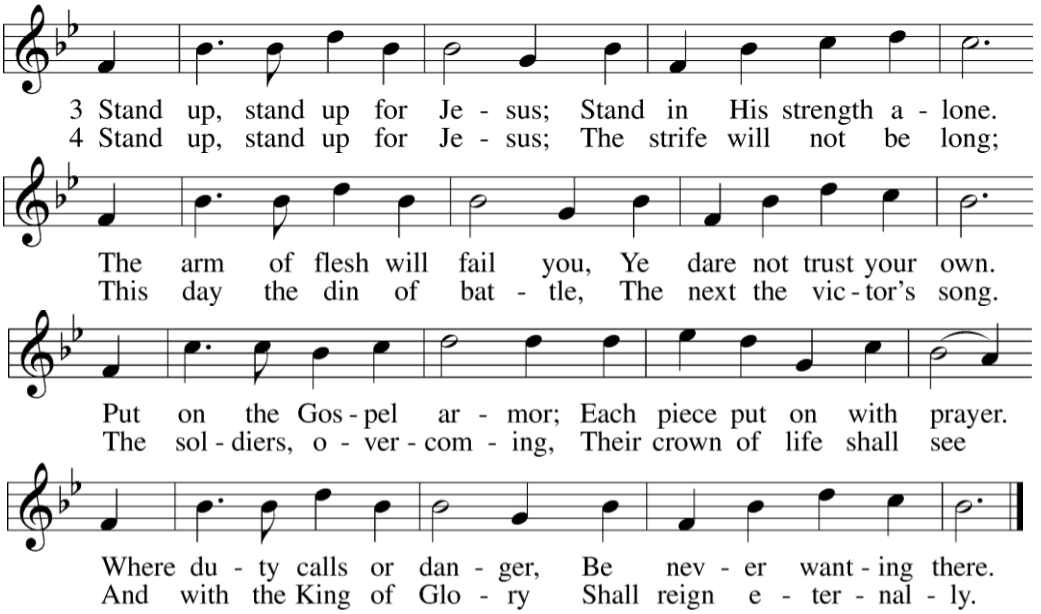


Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt. Tune: George J. Webb, 1803–87 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Danger of the Doldrums" (Matthew 25:14-30)

1) **Entrustment**
2) **Faith vs Fear**
3) **Reckoning and Reward**
4) **Stepping Out of the Hole**

Responsive Hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" LSB 660 (sts 3-4)



Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Prayer of the Church



P As children of light, we cry out to the Lord who sees and hears us and deals bountifully with us in our time of need.

O Lord, our God, our dwelling place from generation to generation, You gather us around Your gifts of Word and Sacrament as we await the return of Christ. Thank You for entrusting us with these gifts, and help us to remain faithful in our waiting as we proclaim the Gospel to the world. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, bringing us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Help us to walk as children of light, encouraging and building one another up, that Your works may be displayed in us while it is still day. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Sovereign Lord, as You have called us to keep watch and to not grow weary, You have also given us leaders to watch over us. Strengthen all who are in authority over us, that they may see and care for the needs of Your people and Your creation. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Merciful Lord, a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past. Be with those who are in long or difficult seasons of life, those who are sick, those who are grieving, and those who are in distress and anguish, **[*especially . . .*].** Give them peace in their waiting that they be comforted in knowing that their strength is in You. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Ever-present Lord, You have prepared the Table and consecrated Your guests. Bring us to receive the gift of Christ's body and blood with repentant and thankful hearts that we be strengthened in our waiting for Your return. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Believing that You have not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer ***LSB 179***

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.



Service of the Sacrament

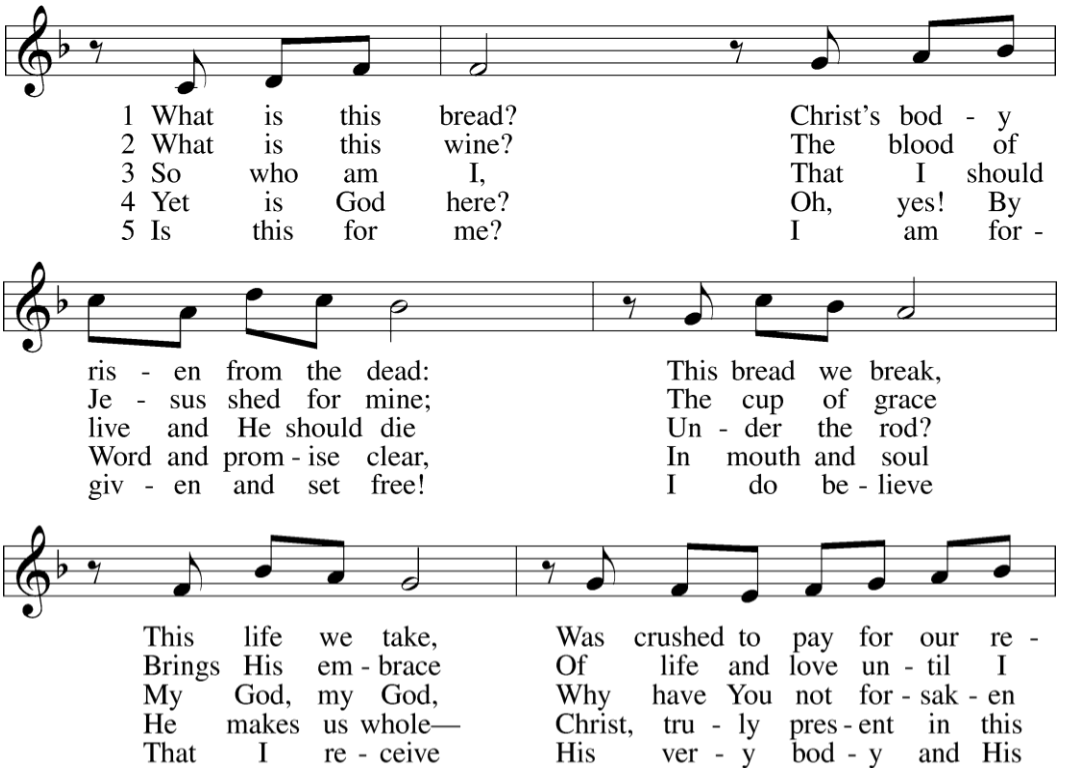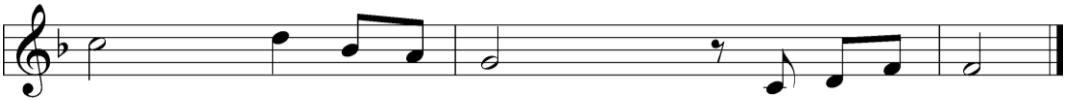


Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*Matthew 26:26–28;Mark 14:22–24;Luke 22:19–20;1 Corinthians11:23–2*

Communion Statement of Love

We rejoice in this celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus indeed comes to us in a very intimate manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in with and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.* ***29*** *For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).* It is out of love and care for every baptized individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper.

Distribution Hymn: "What Is This Bread" LSB 629 (sts 1-5)





Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001315

Distribution Hymn: "To God Be The Glory"

Verse 1
To God be the glory great things
He has done
So loved He the world that He gave
us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement
for sin
And opened the life gate that all
may go in

Chorus
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father through
Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory great
things He has done

Verse 2
O perfect redemption the purchase
of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon
receives

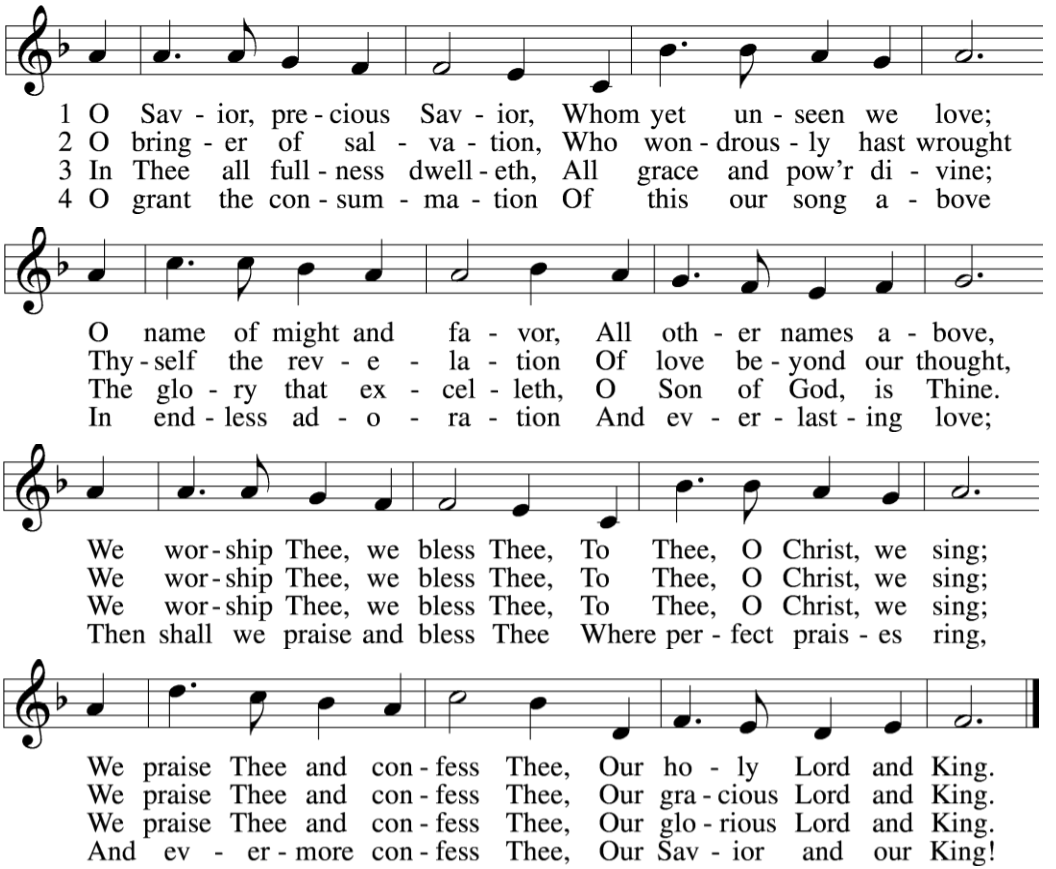
Chorus

Verse 3
Great things He has taught us
Great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus
the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder our transport when Jesus
we see

Chorus

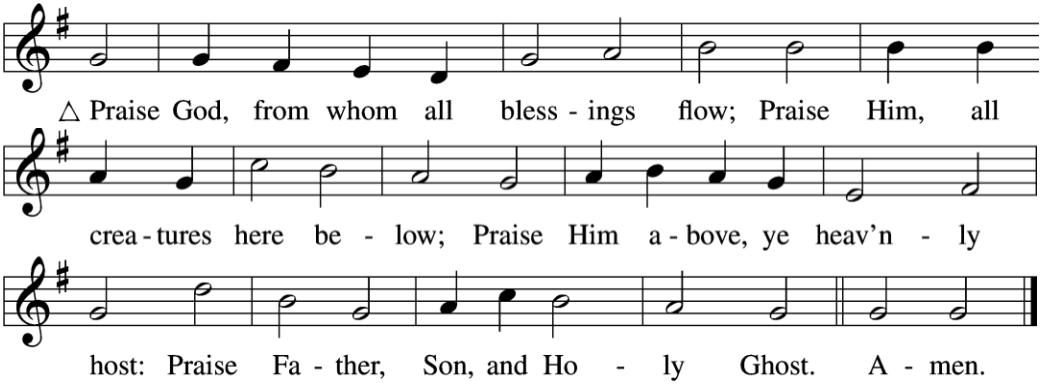
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Distribution Hymn: "O Savior, Precious Savior" LSB 527 (sts 1-4)



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929 Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Hymn "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LSB 805



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Silent Prayer: Holy Spirit, give us the courage to move past fear-based inaction into steady, faithful stewardship. Deliver us from the doldrums of a stagnant faith. Grant us the willingness to risk, to sacrifice, and to invest our lives wholeheartedly for the sake of Your Kingdom. Open our eyes to the daily opportunities right in front of us, and make us industrious and joyful in serving those around us. Amen

Announcements
Postlude

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –November 14/15

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Dave Thompson/ Jeff Jones/ Kory Gerbick	Rob Cobine/ Brett Richardson/ Tim Hamilton
GREETERS	Bill/ Jean Engel	Barb Harbach/ Joyce Small	Kevin/Sandy Keltner
USHERS	Gary Erickson	Heath Harbach	Hudson Winter
ACOLYTES	Usher	Charlie Kent/ Liesl Jones	Max Winter/ Carter Falk
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Lee Ann Brinkmeier/ Jaren Jones	Sam Cobine/ Anita Mau
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK –November 21/22

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Tom Bannon	Craig Kroeger	Kevin Keltner
GREETERS	Jim/ Joan Liles	Eric/ Lindsay Bader	Chris Winter
USHERS	Bill Engel	Dale Calow	Ron Conway
ACOLYTES	Usher	Blaine Drake	Gavyn Gerke
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Evan Zier/ Barb Harbach	Sam Cobine/ Steve Levan/ Denny Potter
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel