Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and **L**oving **C**hrist since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Dr. James T. Farnsworth, Designated Pastor
The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 8, 2026 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Star Spangled Banner* . . . . . Barry Hoover, soloist . . . . . Key

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE REV. DR. JAMES T. FARNSWORTH

RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS



WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!
Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

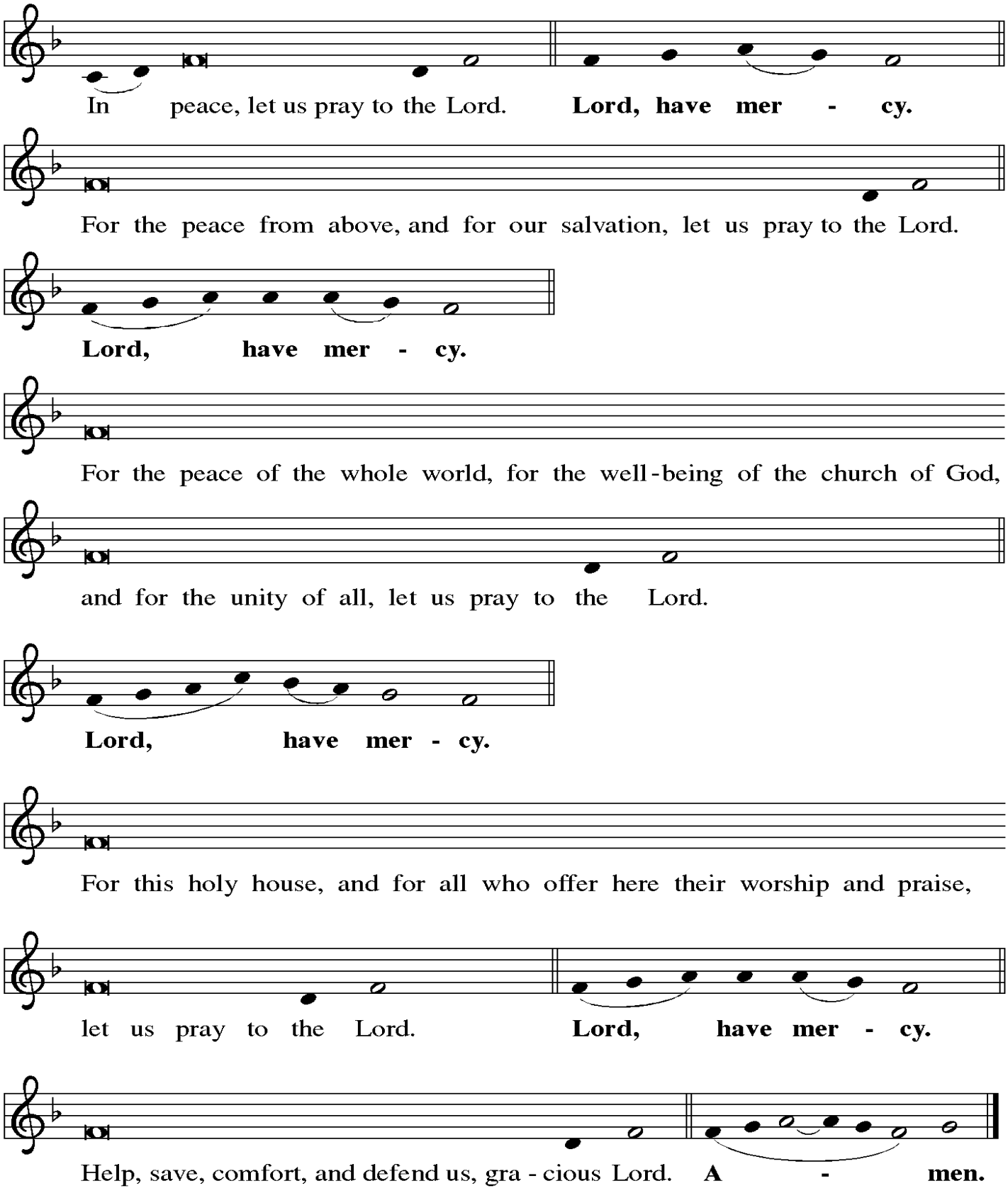
GATHERING HYMN #625 *Come, We That Love the Lord*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE . . . . . The Rev. Dr. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70 *read responsively*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
2 Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
3 Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

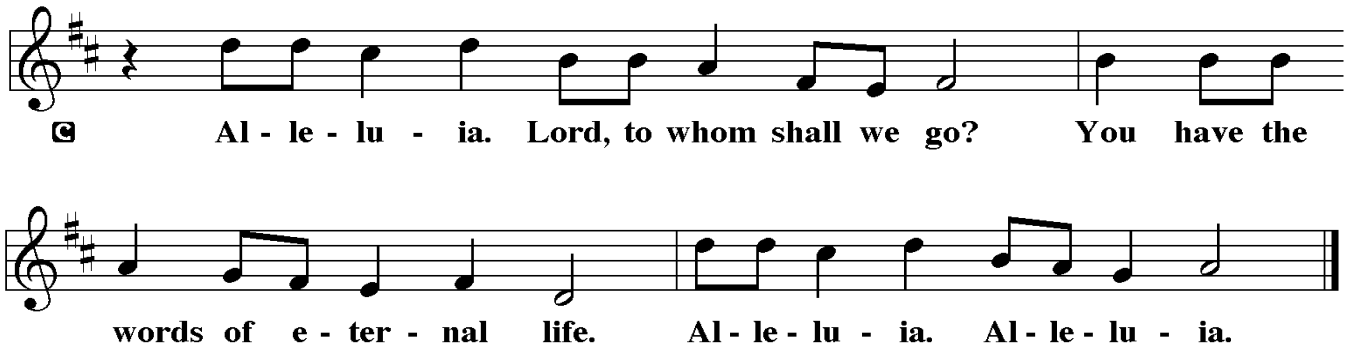
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON . . . . . The Rev. Dr. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY #785 *When Peace like a River*

APOSTLES' 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

P United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East, that they may find an end to conflict in their regions and may be granted God's peace and protection. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially for:

Cindy Fliegel	Ruth Hoover	David Johns
Betty Neiman	Jean Pendi	Denton Quick
Joan Smith	Walt Smithson	Sheryl Block
Jonathan Bortz	Sandy Chupkai	Scott Gumpert
Michelle Haak	Joanne Kitsock	Karin Kohl
Sean Miller	Jayne Phillips	Tracy Rohrbach
Brayden Samuelsen	Richard Schmeer	Patricia Schonour
Betty Scollick	Melissa Scollick	Jim & Lauri Walker

And for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts.

Silent Prayers

God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE
P The peace of our Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share God's peace with one another.

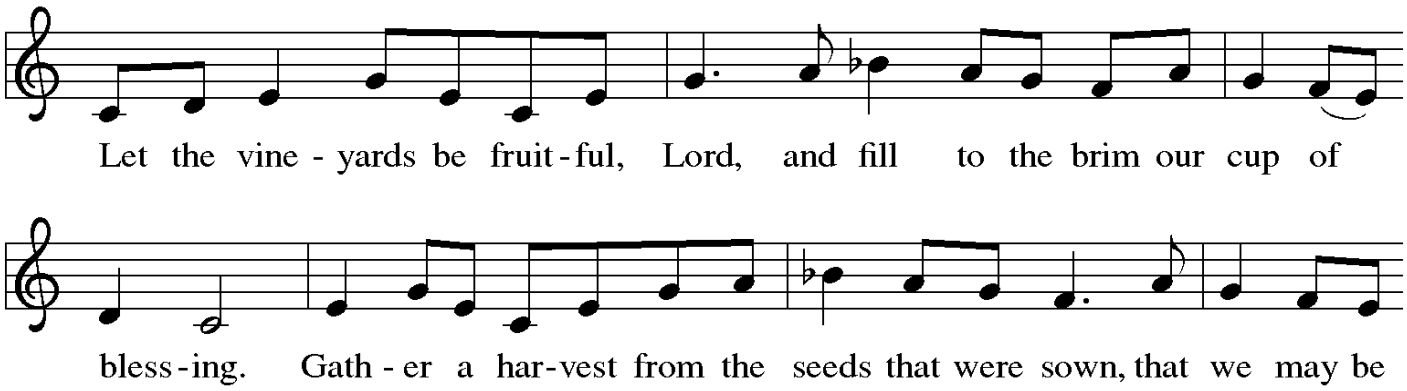
Please be seated.

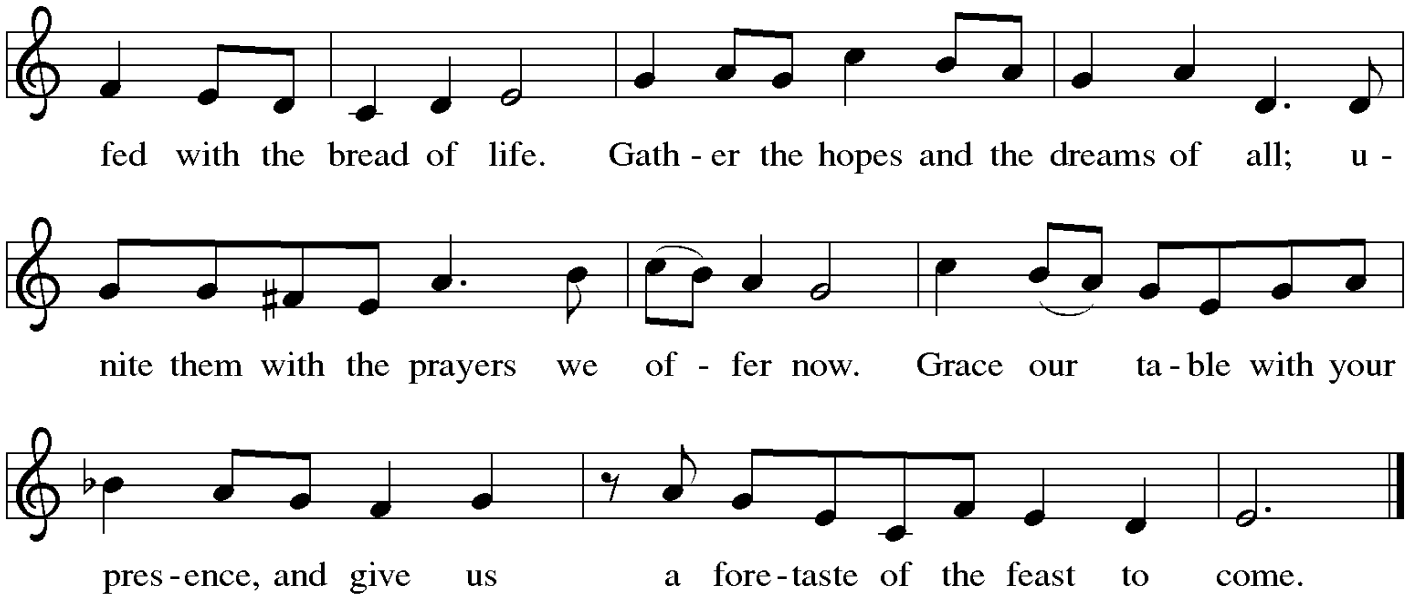
OFFERING

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *Evidence of Grace* . . . . . McDonald

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



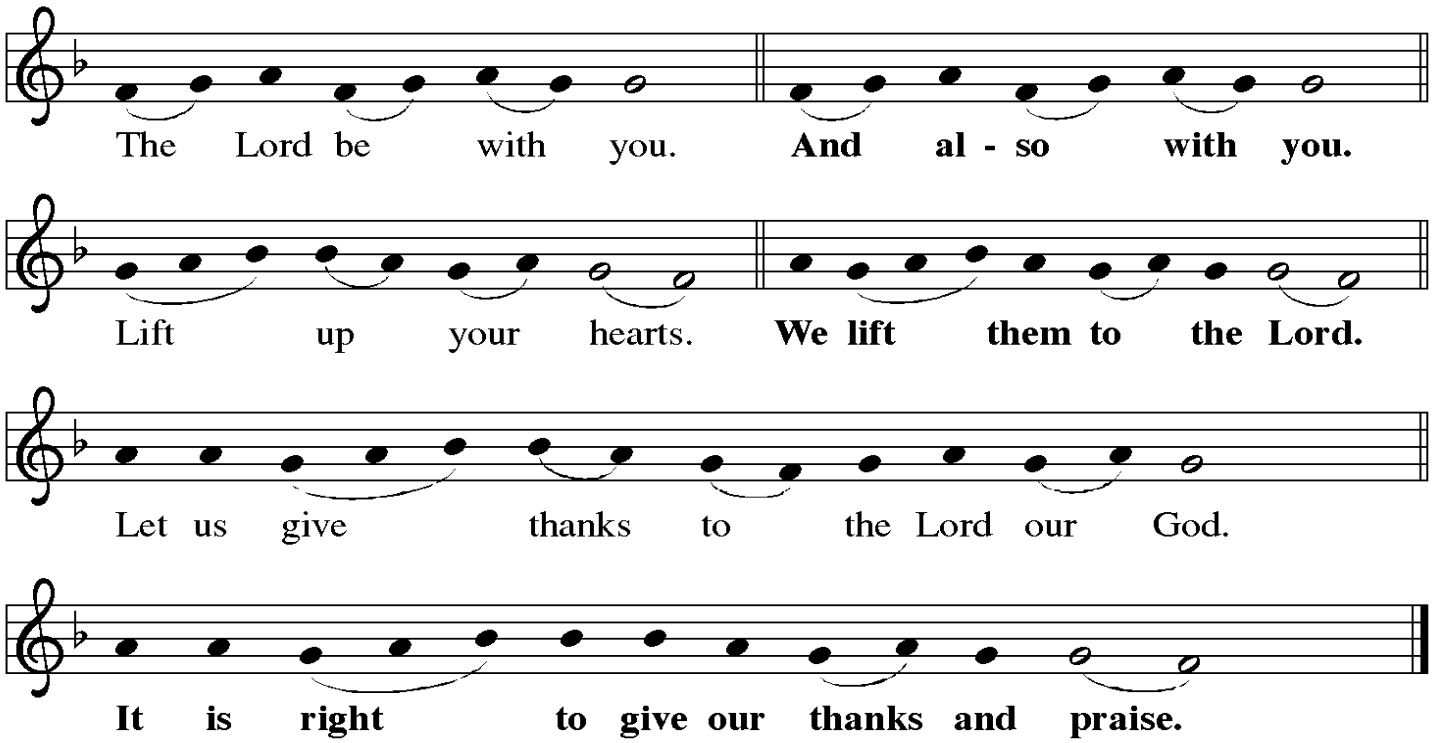


OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

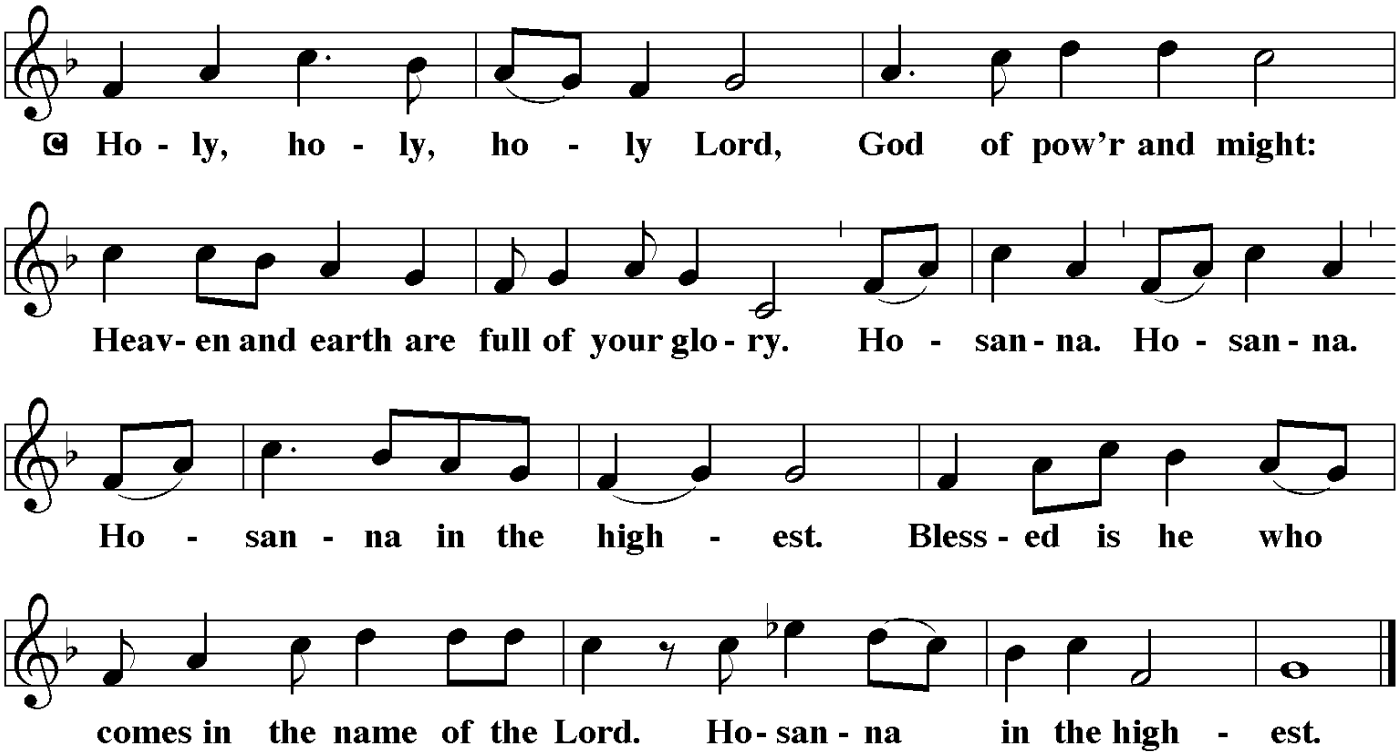
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

P 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which 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.

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;

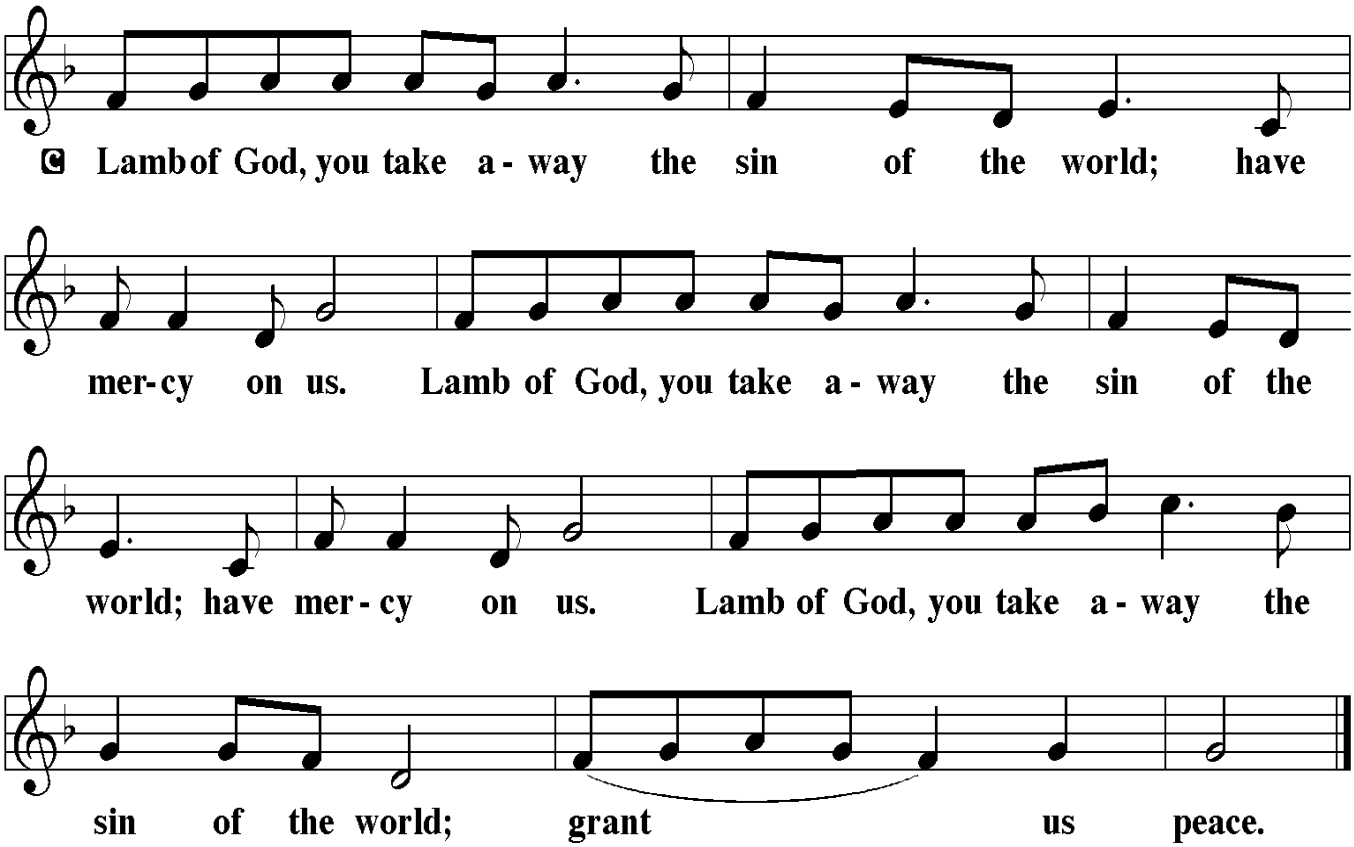
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

A Word of Welcome:
The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the meal of the Church.
All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the gift of His body and blood.
Children who have not yet received instruction for First Holy Communion are welcome to come to the altar to receive a special blessing.
If you are unable to come forward, please let the ushers know, and you will be served in the pew.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Continuous Communion

When directed by the usher, proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle.

If preferred, grape juice is available at the top of the steps.

For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

After receiving communion, please return to your seat by the way of the side ramps.

SUNG BY ALL DURING DISTRIBUTION #854 *Blessing and Honor*

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *The Heavens Declare His Glory* . . . . . Beethoven

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Please be advised, all of our worship services are broadcast live via Zoom to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email to members of the congregation and posted on the church's Facebook page.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Barry Hoover . . . . . Assisting Minister
Larry Houp . . . . . Usher Team Captain
Barry Hoover, Thomas Loughery, Judy McLain . . . . . .Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson . . . . . Carillonneurs
Dave Scalese . . . . . Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are a visitor, a special welcome to you, and if you are without a church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. You are also encouraged to sign our guest register with your preferred contact information. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table. Visitors who are communing members of other Christian congregations are cordially invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Welcome to the Lord's table where we are one with Christ!

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by 1) Jean Pendi in remembrance of Bob's birthday, and 2) by Fred and Cindy Mohr in celebration of Tony D'Angelo's 21st birthday.

Large print hymns and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Children's toys, games, puzzles and books are available in the Narthex.

A **Church-time Nursery room** is available downstairs in the "Parent and Me" room with plenty of toys and books for toddlers and youngsters.

BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant. All are welcome!

DATE CHANGE - QUIETUDE - MUSIC FOR SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK – Please note this date has been changed to May 2, 2027. Artist in Residence, oboist and composer, Jill Haley, will share a concert of music she wrote about the park with video.

FLAGS FOR VETERANS DAY

are available in the Narthex.

Please help yourself!

A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT
When a Veteran is facing a crisis, our community steps up.
For help or to donate,
please call Berks County Veterans Affairs at 610-378-5601.

Upcoming Events from the Social Ministry Committee

- **Ladies Night Out will be held on Tuesday, November 10 beginning at 6:00. Please bring a soup or casserole to be shared by the attendees. Come and enjoy the various dishes and the warm fellowship! The leftover foods will be packaged and placed in the refrigerator.**

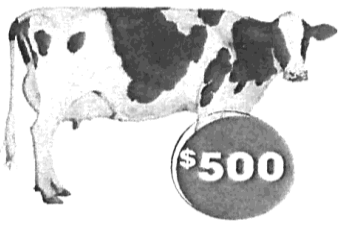
- **Thank Offering Sunday will be celebrated on November 22. This year's collection will be used to purchase food for the SLC Food Cabinet and the Refrigerator. Donations may be placed in the baskets found in the narthex and the front sanctuary entrance. Cash or checks made out to "Schwarzwald Lutheran Church" will be welcomed. At the end of the service, Social Ministry Committee members will be at each doorway to hand our lists of food items needed to stock the Cabinet. Thrivent Action Teams projects may also be used to support this ministry.**

- **Christmas Card Shower: This event was so successful last year, that we'll be doing it again! On three Sundays, November 15, 22, and 29, a table will be set up in the Narthex with Christmas cards and bags labeled with home-bound members' names. Bring some joy to these members by signing cards and placing them in the bags of your choice. You may also include a message of cheer.**
Thank you for helping us spread holiday cheer!!

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road,
Reading, PA 19606
The Rev. Dr. James T. Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
pastorjimsmlc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278
The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:
upsygrad@msn.com
Church Office Phone 610-779-3480
Church Office Fax 610-779-2777
Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org
Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org
Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)
Emergency 610-914-8257

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.



Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

The SLC children/youth will be collecting funds for "God's Global Barnyard" on the last Sunday of each month during worship. Please help them by contributing to this worthy cause that provides animals to families living in poverty.

IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

BLOOD DONATION DAY

Give blood, Give life.
Be someone's miracle.



14 NOVEMBER 2026

SATURDAY
08:00 AM - 01:00 PM

SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 Church Lane Rd.
Reading, PA 19606

To schedule an appointment:
Scan the QR Code OR
Call Miller-Keystone at 800-223-6667, ext. 2
and mention Sponsor Code 8506

COME, GATHER, PREPARE

Advent FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

(following worship)

11:45 AM-1:45 PM in FELLOWSHIP HALL



PIZZA LUNCH

MUSIC

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS

+ *A SPECIAL "PREPARE & SHARE" TABLE FOR OLDER KIDS AND ADULTS TO MAKE DECORATIONS FOR SHUT-INS*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST OUTDOOR ADVENT CANDLE

Invite your friends and come for an afternoon of fellowship as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child!

Parents AFTERNOON OUT

A special time for you while your children enjoy a fun-filled afternoon!



LUNCH
PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN



MOVIE
AND POPCORN



CRAFTS

FREE TO ALL!

Children Ages 5 to 12

DECEMBER 13TH 2026

Immediately following the Christmas Cookie Celebration and ending at 4:00





QUIETUDE - MUSIC FOR SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
Artist in Residence, oboist and composer, Jill Haley,
will share a concert of music she wrote about the park with video.
SUNDAY, 5/2/27 at The Miller Center at RACC.

QUIETUDE

PLEASE NOTE DATE

CHANGE TO 5-2-27!

Scan QR code for tickets or go to: www.millercenter.racc.edu / Phone for tickets: 610-607-6270

11th Annual Toy Give for the Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry

December 11, 2026

Distribution will take place at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Each year the number of children and families served grows larger. Your generosity has made it possible for us to continue to provide gifts for hundreds of children in our community each year. We are so grateful.

It takes all of us to get this job done.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider purchasing a toy or toys for children aged BIRTH THROUGH 13 YEARS OLD. This can include toys, games, puzzles, dolls, cars, trucks, building sets, art supplies, Barbies, Legos, etc.

FOR THE TEENAGERS 14-18

We would appreciate the purchase of gift sets: Make-up sets, Nail Care Sets, Shaving Sets, Cologne Sets, Perfume Sets, Hand Cream and Body Wash Sets, Adult Art Sets, (Fine tip markers, graphic pencils, colored pencils) etc. The Amazon Wish List below will include examples of these sets. Teenagers will also receive a gift card to a local store from our generous partner, Hack Away at Hunger.

Donations of hats, socks, gloves and scarves for ALL AGES are also appreciated.

Donations of gently read CHILDREN's and TEEN's books that you no longer need are welcomed. New books are also appreciated.

***All items can be placed a collection box located in the community, or you can deliver them to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. There will be two collection boxes at the church entrance (top of the steps) in the center of the building. The railings at this entrance will have bows tied to them to help you locate the boxes. The boxes are emptied daily.**

Please DO NOT leave them near the Community Refrigerator and Pantry.

For those who prefer a monetary contribution, please send a check made payable to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church (marked "Toy Give") and send it to 250 Church Lane Road, Reading, PA 19606

Below you will find a link to an Amazon Wish List with suggested items you may purchase for the children in case you are looking for a little help choosing. Any item purchased from this list will be shipped directly to Schwarzwald. You can copy and paste the link in your browser or email me to have a link sent to you. You can also search for the list named Exeter Toy Give 2026 under accounts and lists, search for a list on the Amazon home page.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LH2ID2SYV8WD?ref_=wl_share

If you prefer to shop online at any other store website, the items can be shipped directly to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Road, Reading Pa 19606

If you have questions, please contact Doris Jaeger at 610-780-9825 or bdj43077@msn.com.
You may also call the Schwarzwald Lutheran Church office at 610-779-3480.
It would be helpful if all toys could be available by December 4th. Thank you!

Drop off locations include: Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Exeter Township Building, Exeter Library, Schwarzwald UCC, St. Catharine of Sienna, St. Lawrence UCC, Reformation Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, Breakfast Hut, Spine and Wellness Center, & Diamond Federal Credit Union.