

# Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

**S**erving 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

## CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2026 10:45 A.M.




## THANKOFFERING SUNDAY




**HYMNS ON THE CARILLON**

**CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE** *Prayer of Thanksgiving* . . . . . Netherlands Folk Song
Peg Gumpert, piano Kathy Snyder, organ

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

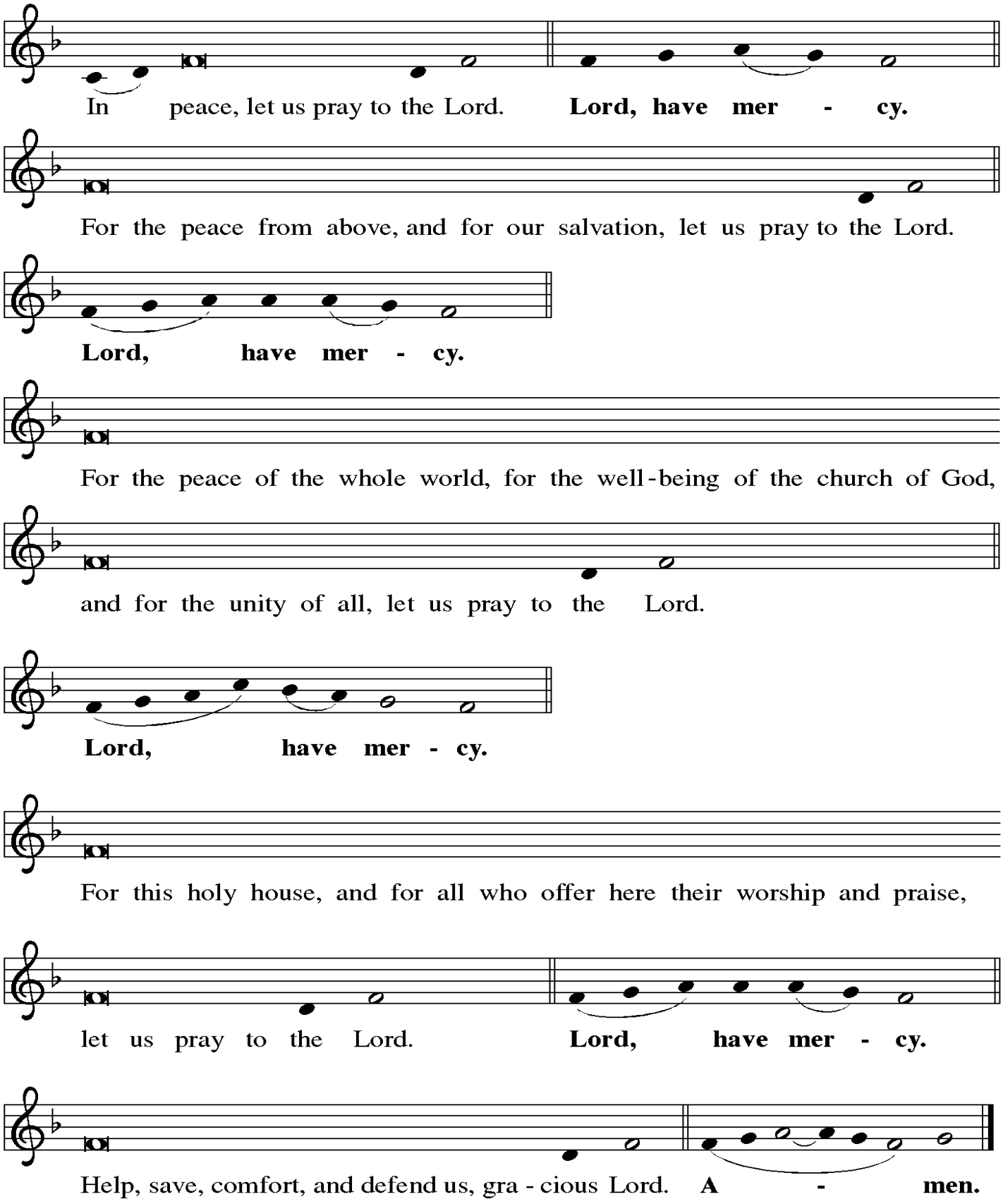
**GATHERING HYMN** #434 *Jesus Shall Reign*

**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 power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

**FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their
flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to
which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples
and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of
Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the
mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed
on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie
down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and
I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you
scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between
sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be
their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord
have spoken.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 95:1-7a** *read responsively*

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

3 For the Lord is a great God
and a great King above all gods.

**4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;**
**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**6 O come, let us worship and bow down;**
**let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

7a For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

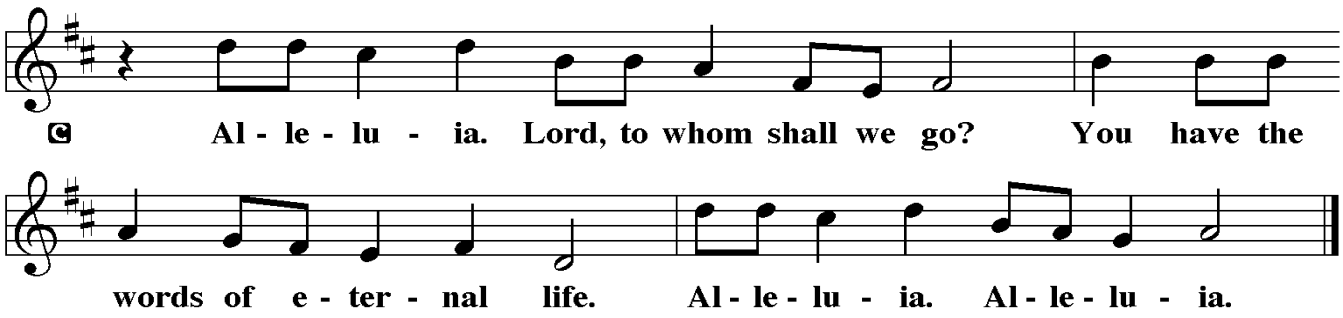
**SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23**

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not
cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father
of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your
heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious
inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according
to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and
seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and
above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under
his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills
all in all.

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

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**




P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he
will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one
from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me
food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked
and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the
righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave
you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave
you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer
them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to
me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave
me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer
them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these
will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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** #854 *Blessing and Honor*

**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 Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
**C hear our prayer.**

A All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,
**C hear our prayer.**

A Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. 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 Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need especially:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cindy Fliegel | Russ Frey | Ruth Hoover |
| David Johns | Betty Neiman | Jean Pendi |
| 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,
**hear our prayer.**

A Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
**C hear our prayer.**

A Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.

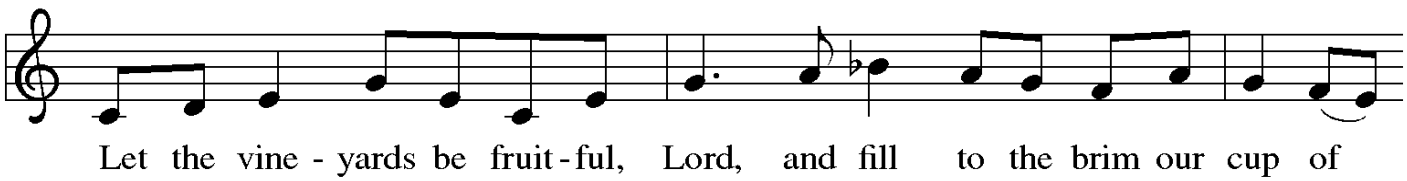
*Please be seated.*

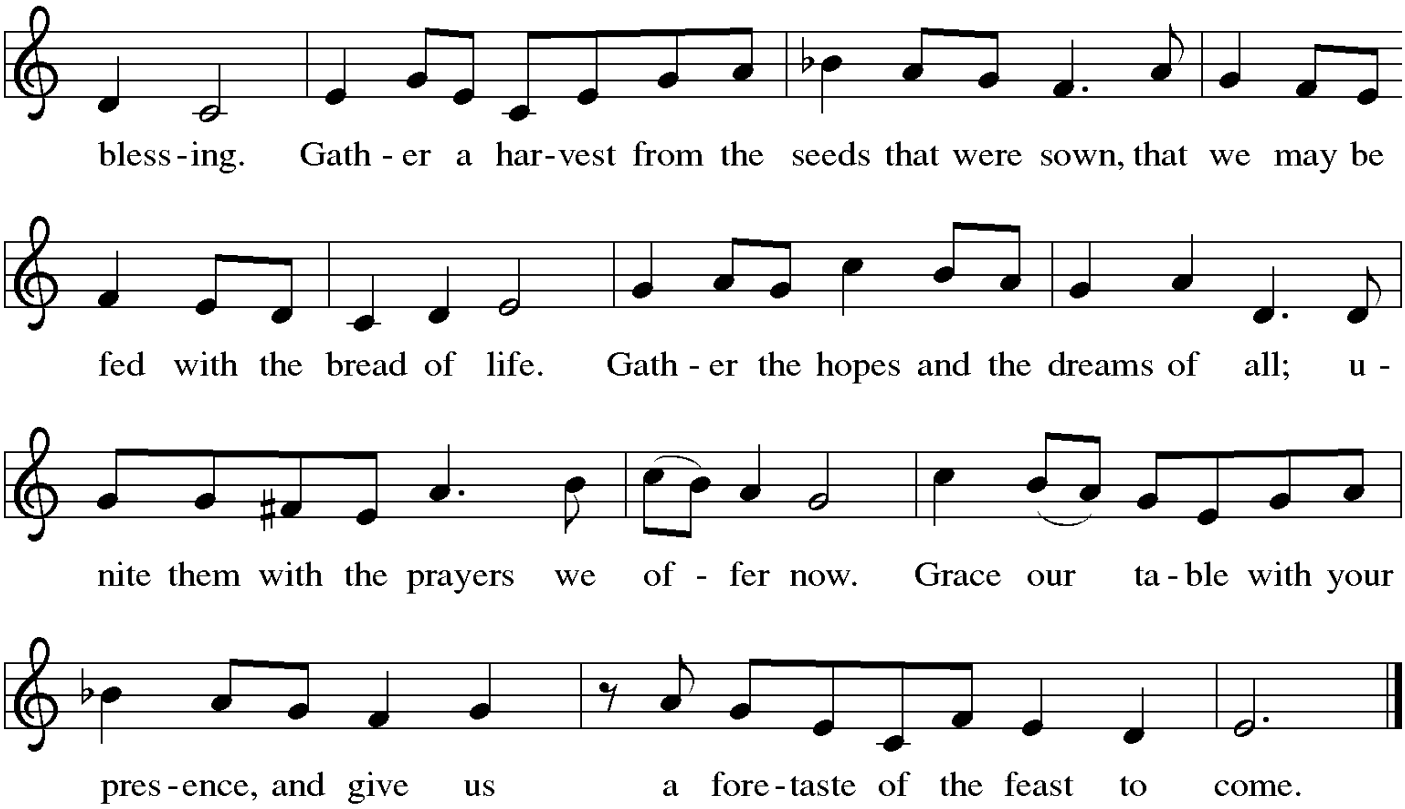
**OFFERING**

**SR. CHOIR ANTHEM** *Thanksgiving Prayer* . . . . . Price/Besig

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



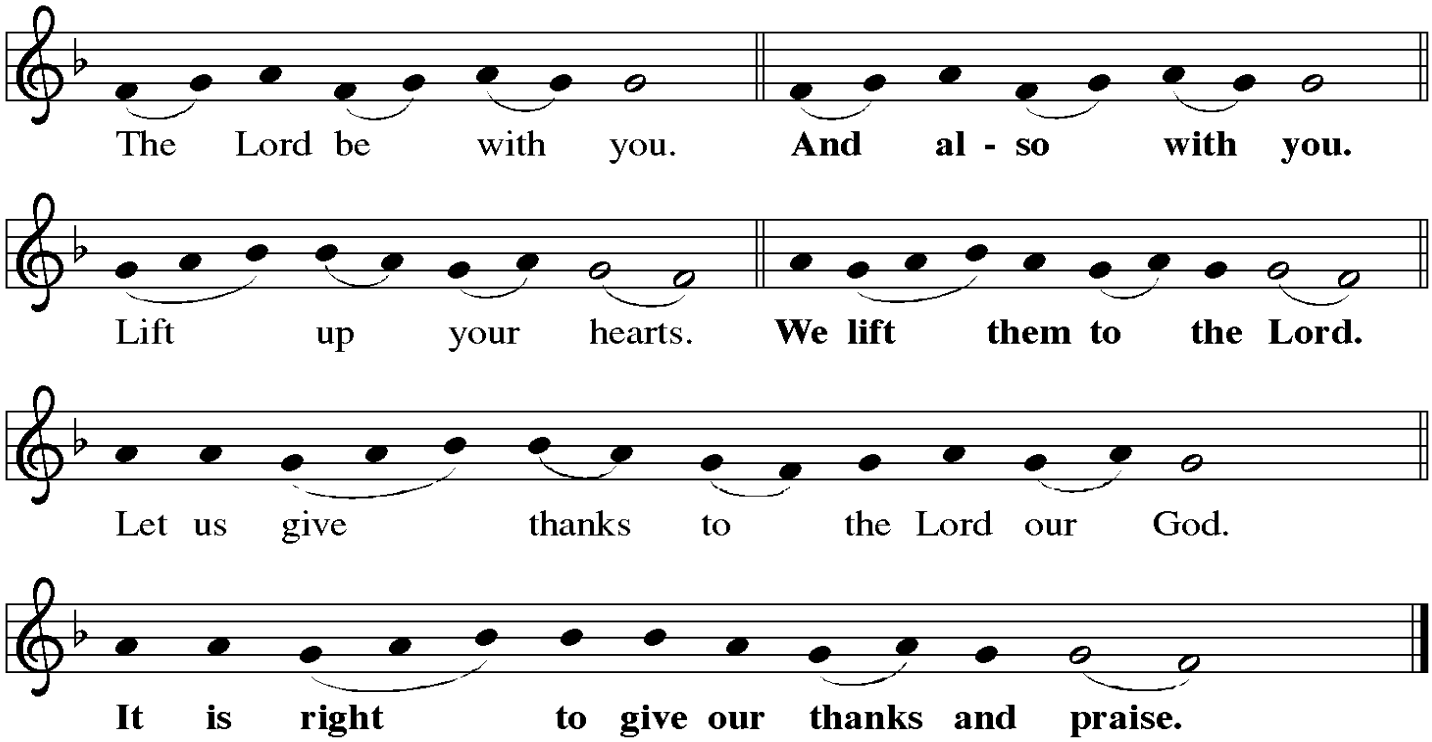



**OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

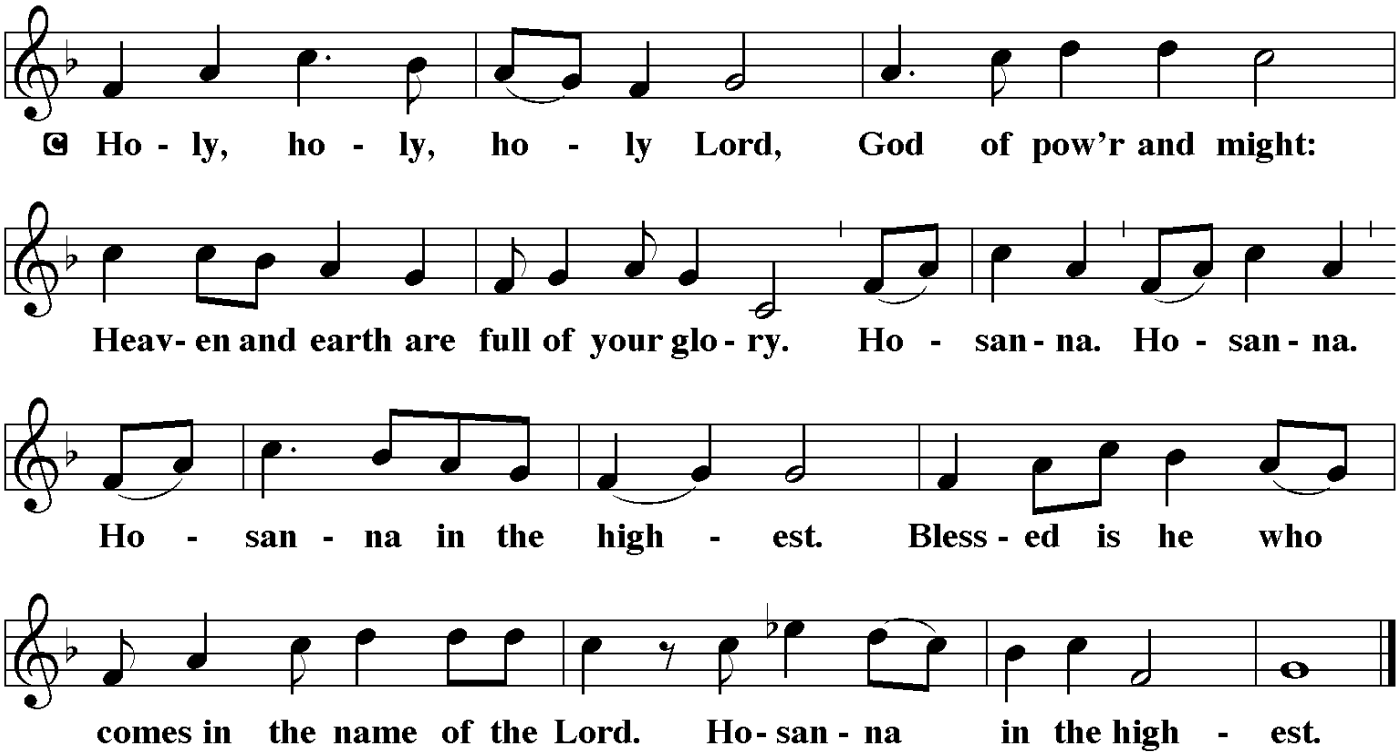
**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



**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.**

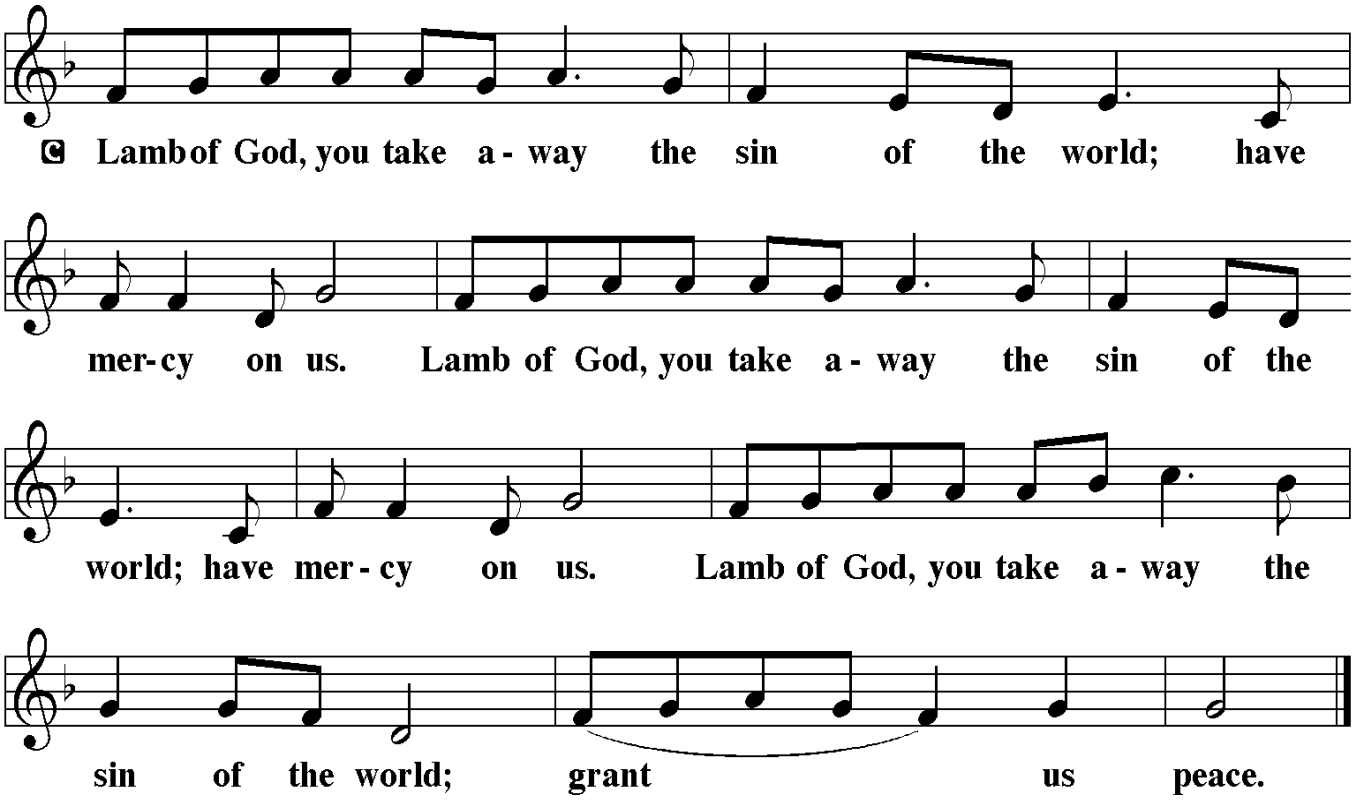
**Give us this day our daily bread;**
**and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those**
**who trespass against us;**
**and lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**and the power,**
**and the glory,**
**forever and ever.**
**Amen.**

***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** #638 *Blessed Assurance*

*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** #634 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Encourage one another.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Let All Things Now Living* . . . . . Langlois

**HELP NEEDED TODAY!!** – Immediately after worship, we could use your help to get the Christmas decorations down from the Upper Room and staged for decorating.

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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

Mark Bauer . . . . . Assisting Minister
Kevin Kennedy . . . . . .Usher Team Captain
Karley Seidel . . . . . Acolyte
Peg Gumpert . . . . . Accompanist
Mark Bauer, Doris Jaeger, Terry Jenkins . . . . . Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson . . . . . Carillonneurs
Kevin Kennedy . . . . . 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 JoAnn and Greg Lott in memory of Jean Ross-Hoffman.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Heather and Evie in honor of Ella's 3rd 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.

**HELP NEEDED TODAY!!** – immediately after worship, we could use your help to get the Christmas decorations down from the Upper Room and staged for decorating.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** – A First Communion class will be held on **Sunday, December 13, at 12:30 p.m.** led by Pr. Jim. If you would like to sign your child up for this class, please call the church office, 610-779-3480.

**DATE CHANGE – QUIETUDE / Jill Haley concert - Please note this date has been changed to May 2, 2027.**

## Christmas Card Shower

November 22 and 29 are the last two Sundays for you to help the Social Ministry Committee complete their Holiday Bag project. Visit the table display in the Narthex, where you can choose cards to sign and place in the corresponding bags for our home-bound members. You may also choose to include a personalized message. Thank you for helping us spread holiday cheer!!

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.




## POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY

Please fill out the order form below. Please place the completed form and your payment in one of the green "special" envelopes in your packet or use one of the envelopes in the pew pocket and mark it "seasonal flowers." Please place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, December 13.

Plants may be picked up on Sunday, December 27, after the worship service.

_____(cut)_____

**Poinsettia Order Form**

Name_____ Env. # _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin—names only, please)

6 ½" pot - $11.00 each _____ #

8" pot - $32.50 each _____ #

Total enclosed $ _____



# 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



Please scan the QR code to sign-up!

# CHRISTMAS
## AT SCHWARZWALD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
7:00 PM

**Exeter Senior High School**
**Eagleaires &**
**Chamber Orchestra**

Featuring movements
from Handel's *Samson*



250 CHURCH LANE RD,
READING, PA

**Join us for a festive community celebration of carols, advent readings, and music.**

## 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.