St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
711 Court Street Pekin, IL 61554-1735
(309) 347-2136/2137
Web site: stjohnpekin.com Email:stjohnsec@grics.net
Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor
Judi Hicks - Principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026

- -

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. *(Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34)*

- -

THE ORDER OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Prelude

Hymn of Invocation #443
"O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea"

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

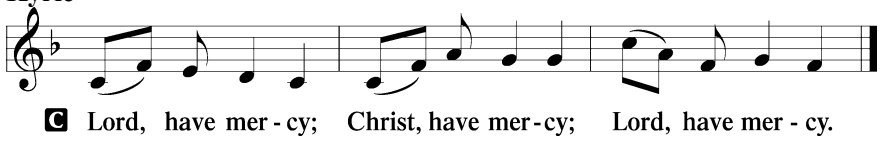
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

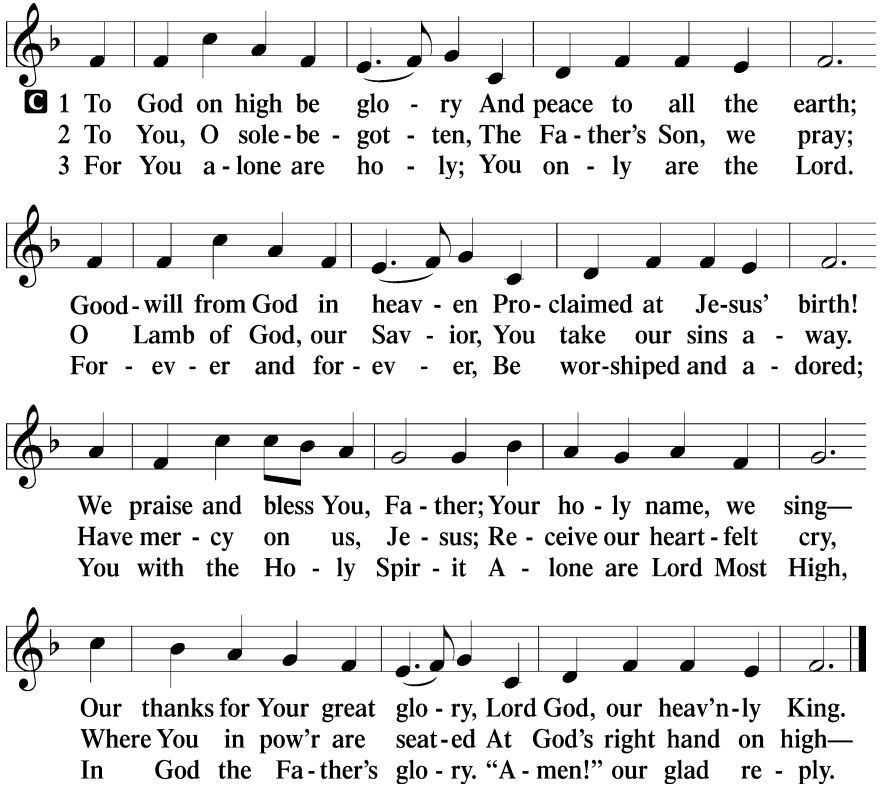
Introit Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
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.
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Kyrie



Gloria in Excelsis



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

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.

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

GRADUAL Rev. 7:14b; Ps. 84:5
These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

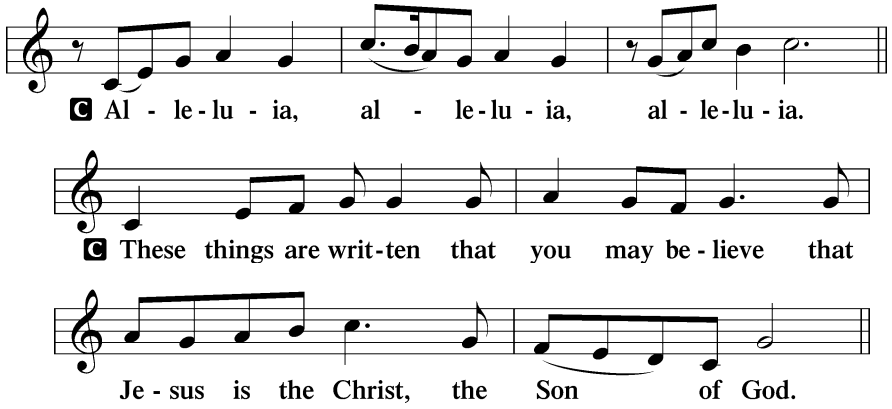
Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

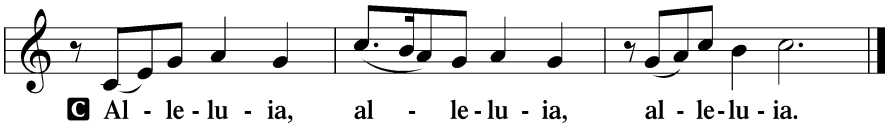
[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon 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.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse





Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[14][Jesus said:] "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 sowed 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.

Sit

Sermon Hymn #400

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Sermon "The Lord's Reward for Faithful Servants"
Matthew 25:19-21

I. The Lord expects us to be faithful with what He has entrusted to us.
II. The Lord will reward His faithful servants.
III. The Lord considers us faithful servants because of His love and faithfulness.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

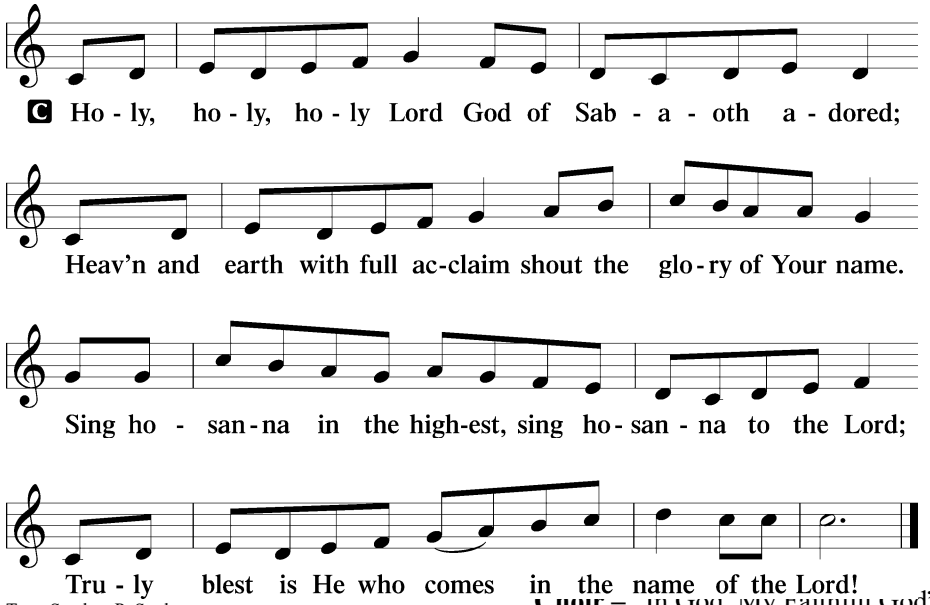
P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Choir – "In God, My Faithful God" *(8:00*

Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

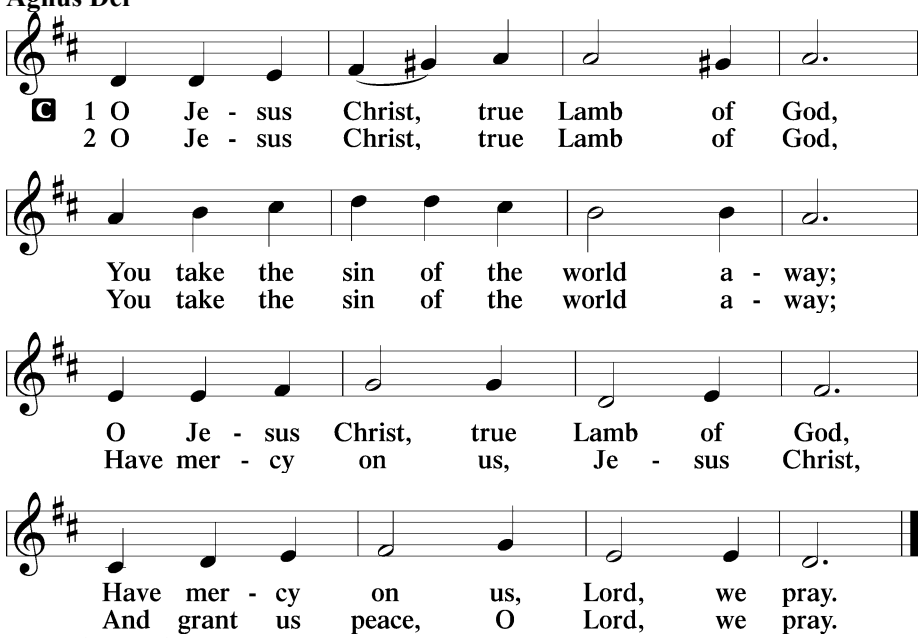
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



Text: Stephen P. Starke

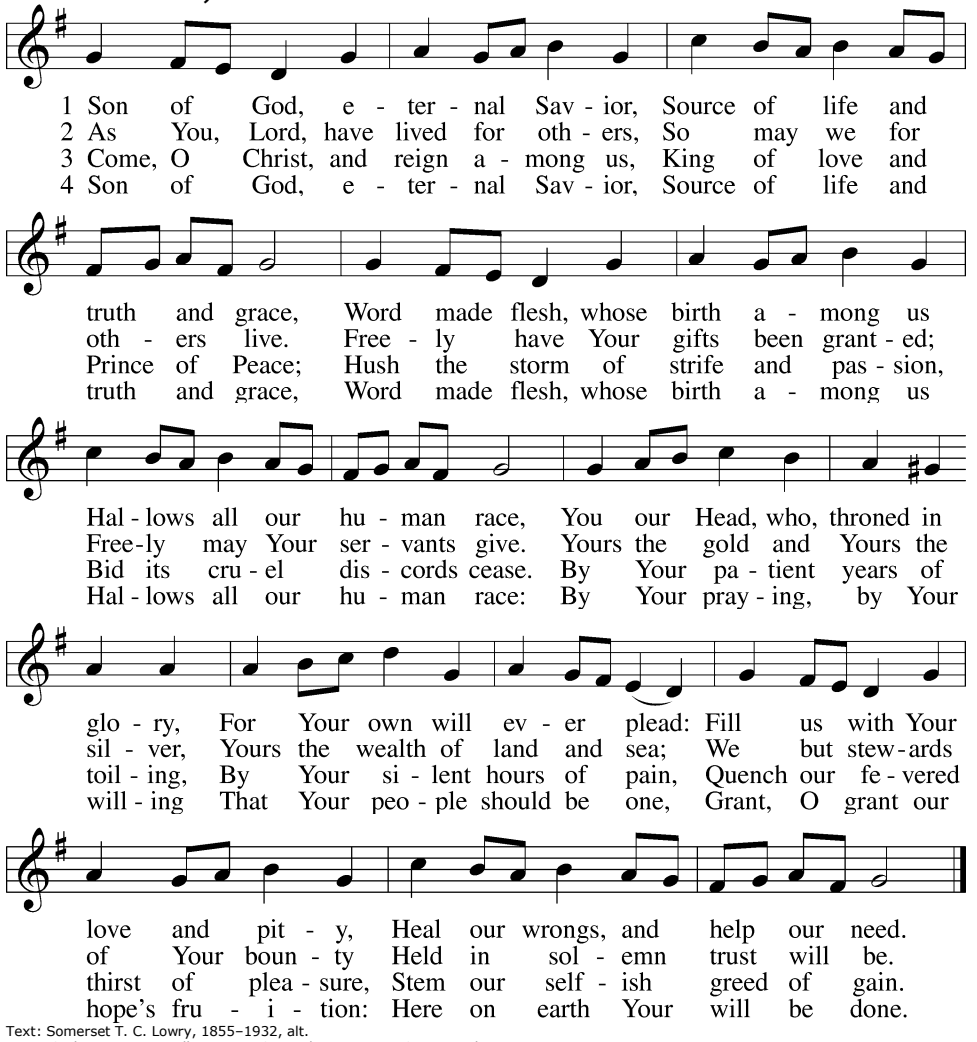
Sit

Communion Distribution

Hymn #403 – "Savior, Thy Dying Love"

Hymn #441 – "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

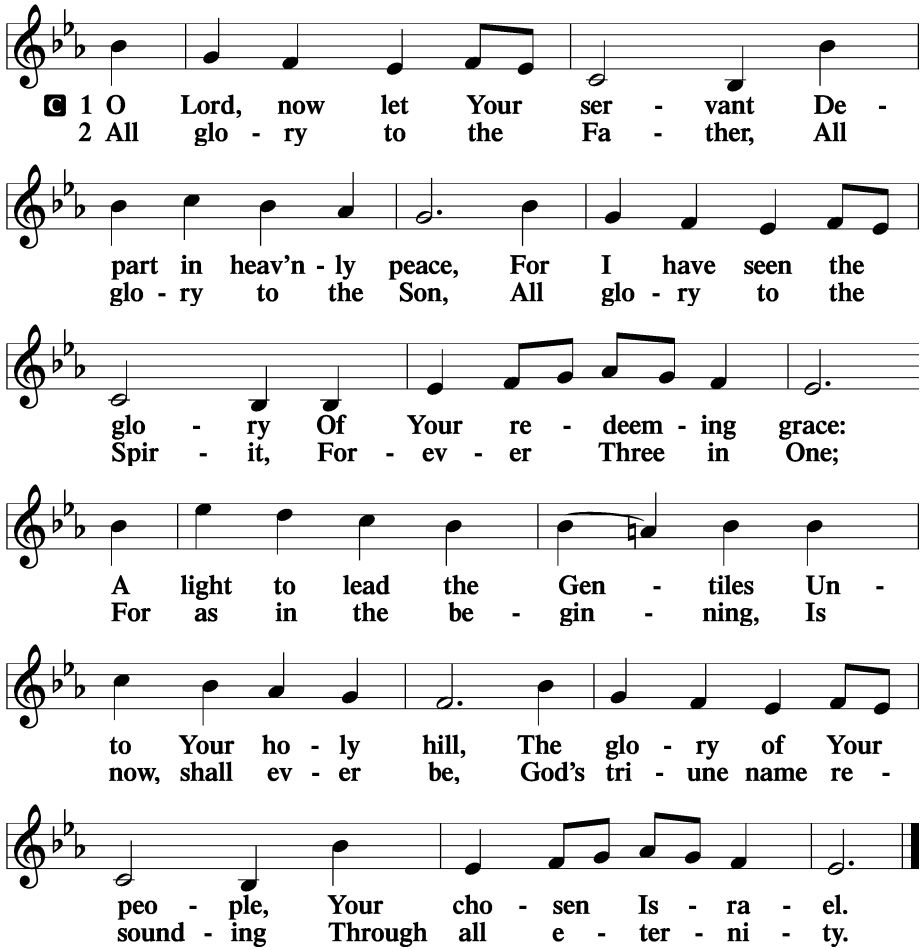
842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.
Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contredansen, c. 1710, Amsterdam
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Hymn to Depart #403 – "Savior, Thy Dying Love" *(7:00)*

DAILY READINGS November 15: Jer. 30:1–24; Matt. 26:57–75; **16:** Jer. 31:1–17, 23–34; Matt. 27:1–10; **17:** Jer. 33:1–22; Matt. 27:11–32; **18:** Jer. 37:1–21; Matt. 27:33–56; **19:** Jer. 38:1–28; Matt. 27:57–66; **20:** Dan. 1:1–21; Matt. 28:1–20; **21:** Dan. 2:1–23; Rev. 18:1–24

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.