Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

WELCOME

A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord!
We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome at worship.
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and the nursery is the first door on your right.

Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices
for today's worship are available.
Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

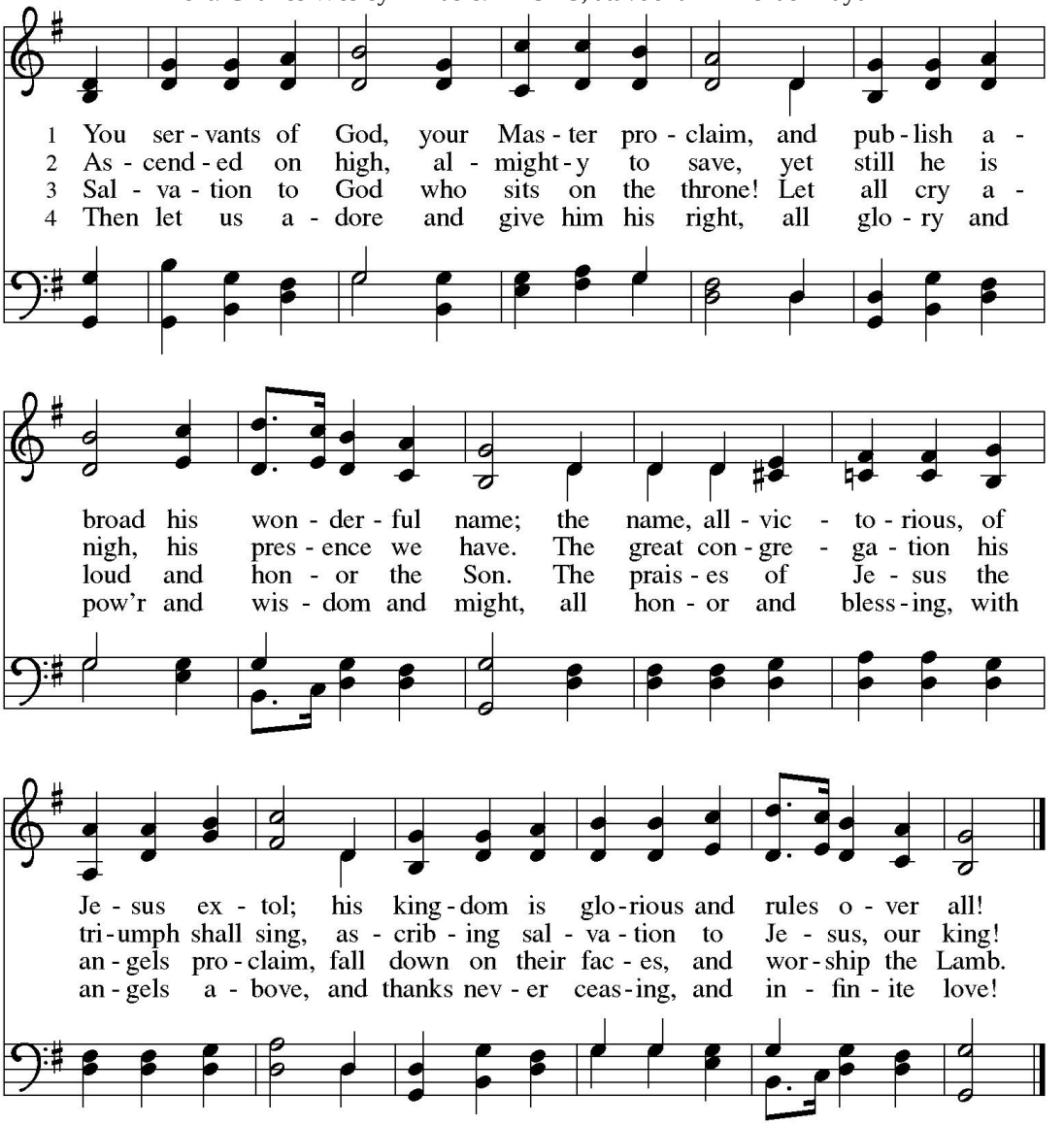
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

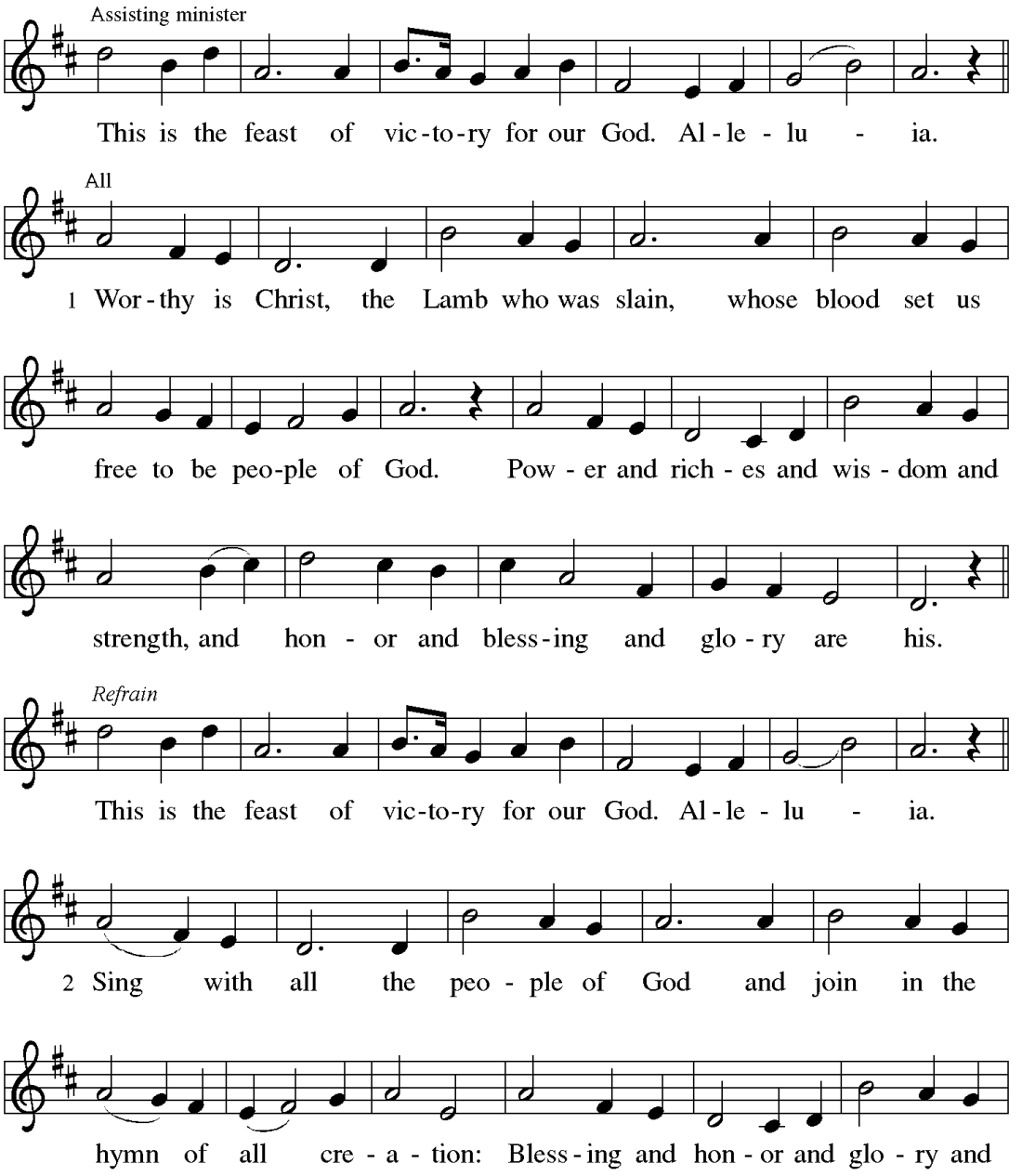
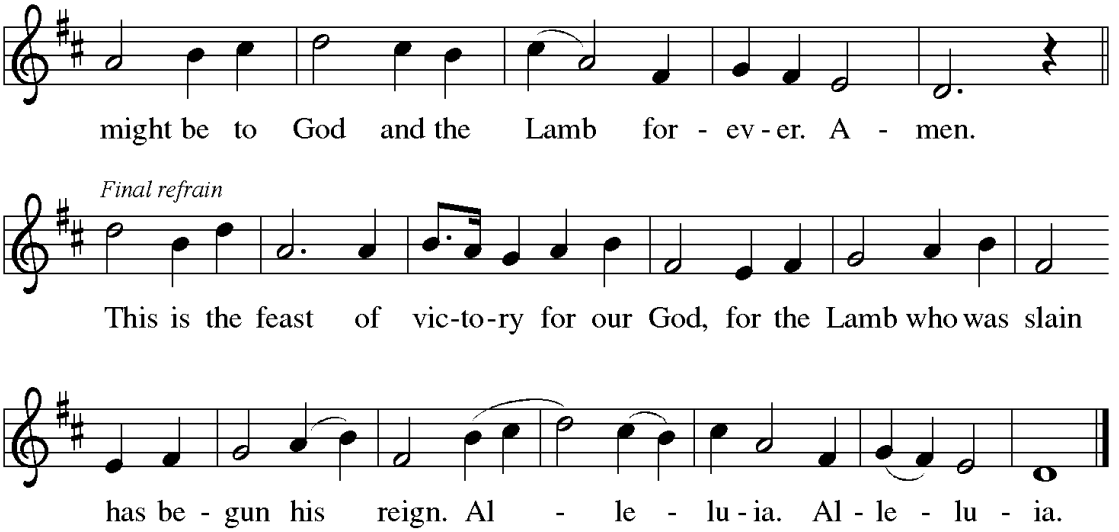
Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

You Servants of God

Text: Charles Wesley Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING **Isaiah 45:1-7**

[1] Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
[2] I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
[3] I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4] For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
[5] I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
[7] I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM **Psalm 96:1-9**

1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2 **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

3 Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**
more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

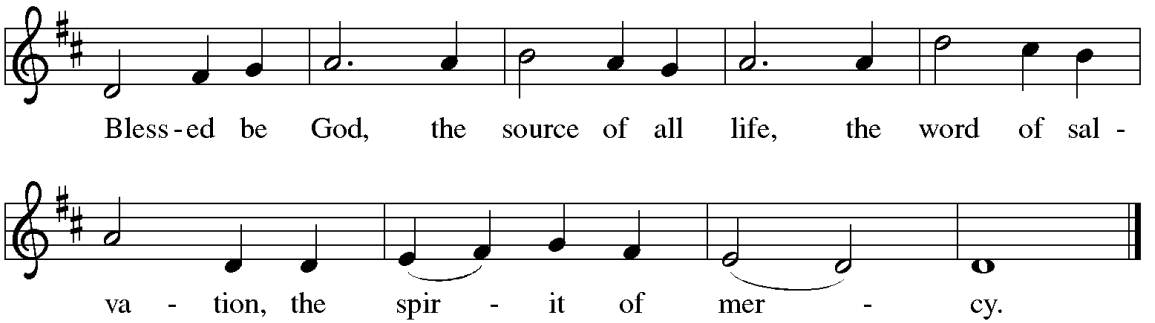
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor
of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers
and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the
gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and
with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be
among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in
spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that
you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the
word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia
but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need
to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among
you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to
wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues
us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL **Matthew 22:15-22**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 16 So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that
you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show
deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then,
what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of
their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show
me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to
them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then
he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God
the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they
left him and went away.

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

Please be seated.

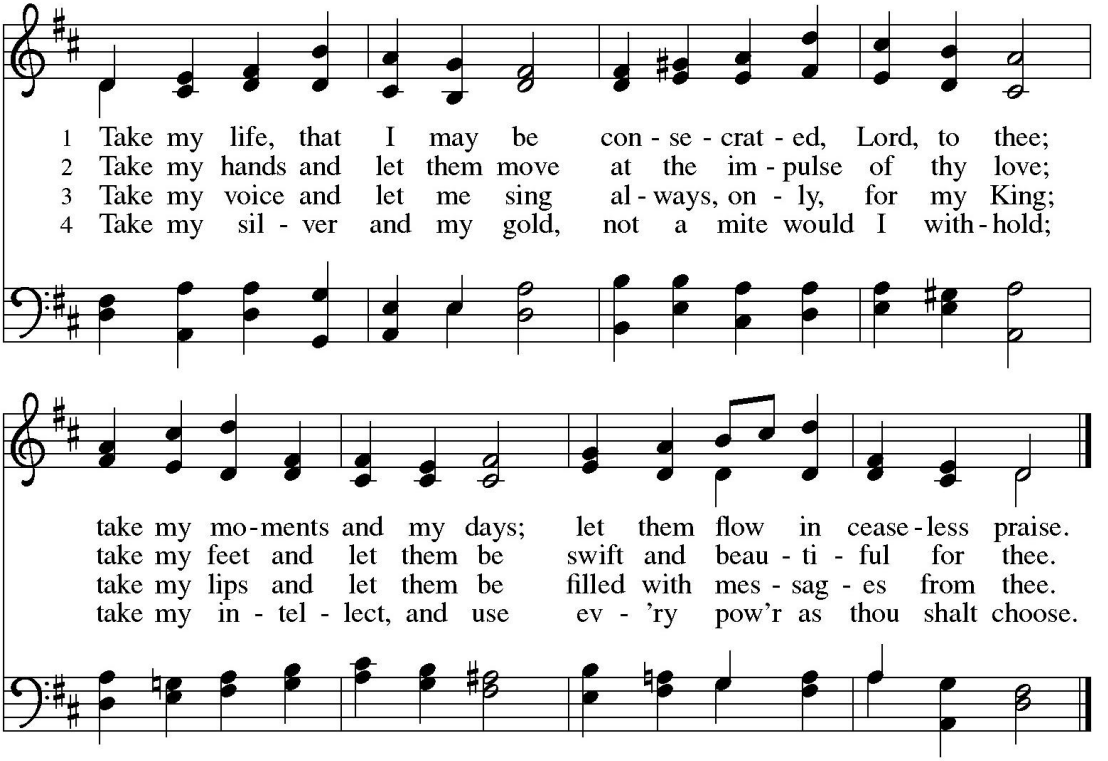
SERMON

*Following the serm*on s*ilence is kept for reflection.*

Please stand as you are able following the prayer.

Take My Life, That I May Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal



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

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly is seated.

MEAL

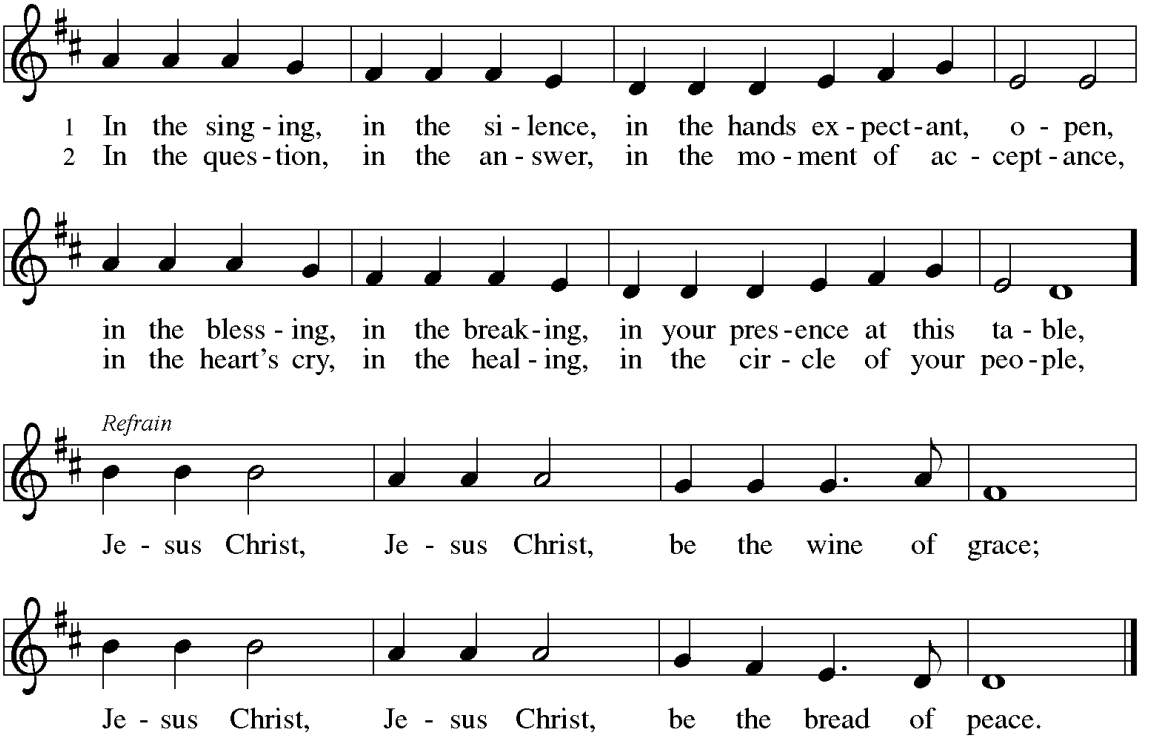
OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code. During the summer months, please place your offering in the plates at the entrances to worship.

ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

**God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

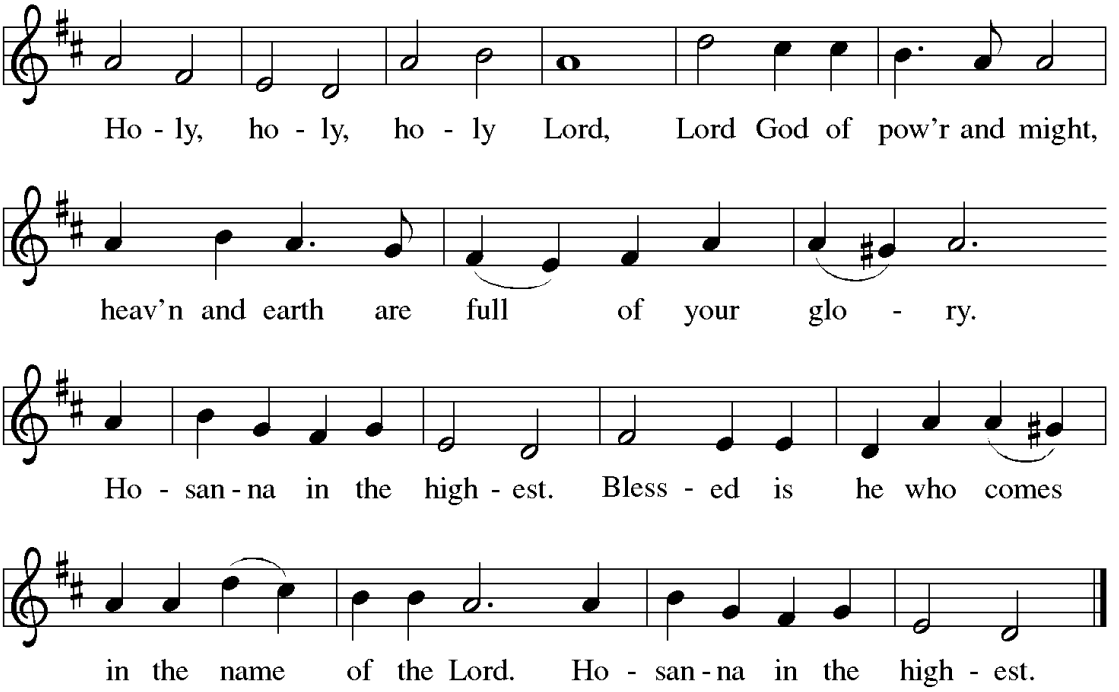
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

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.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all, and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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

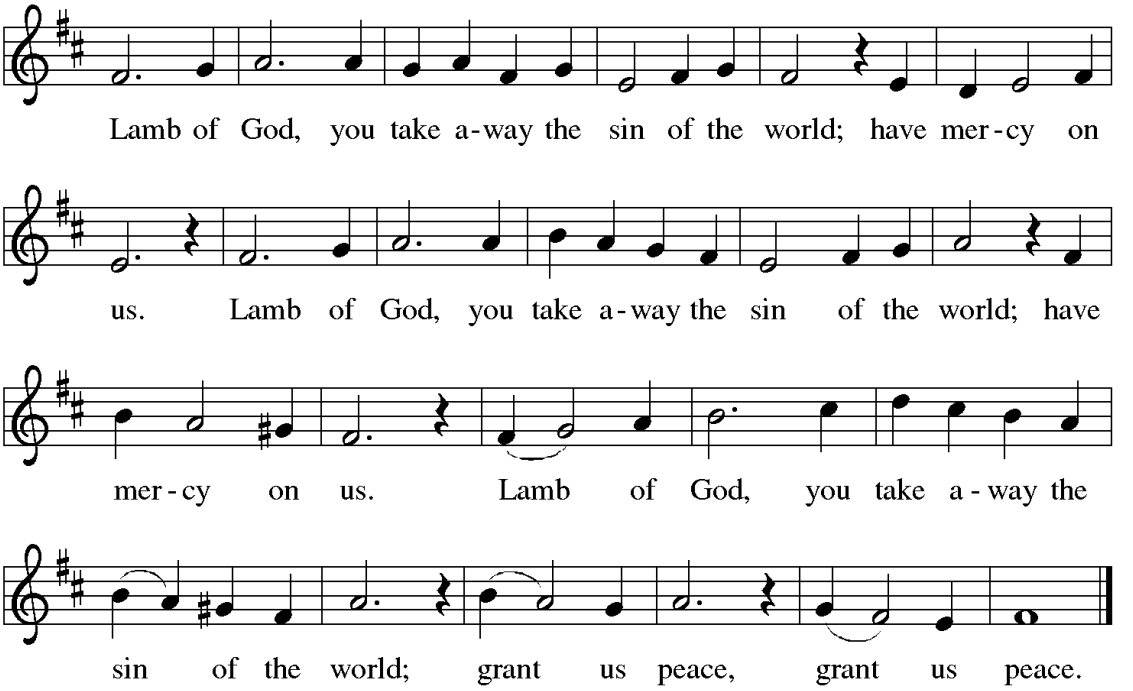
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God.

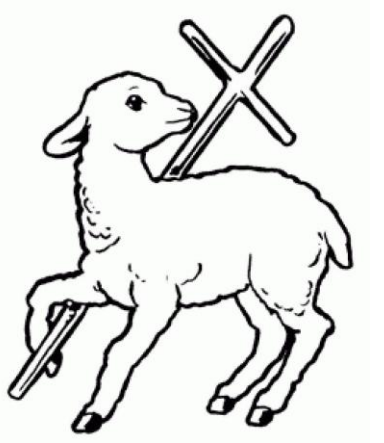
Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion: *All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.*

LAMB OF GOD


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Bread of Life from Heaven

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD. Marty Haugen, b.

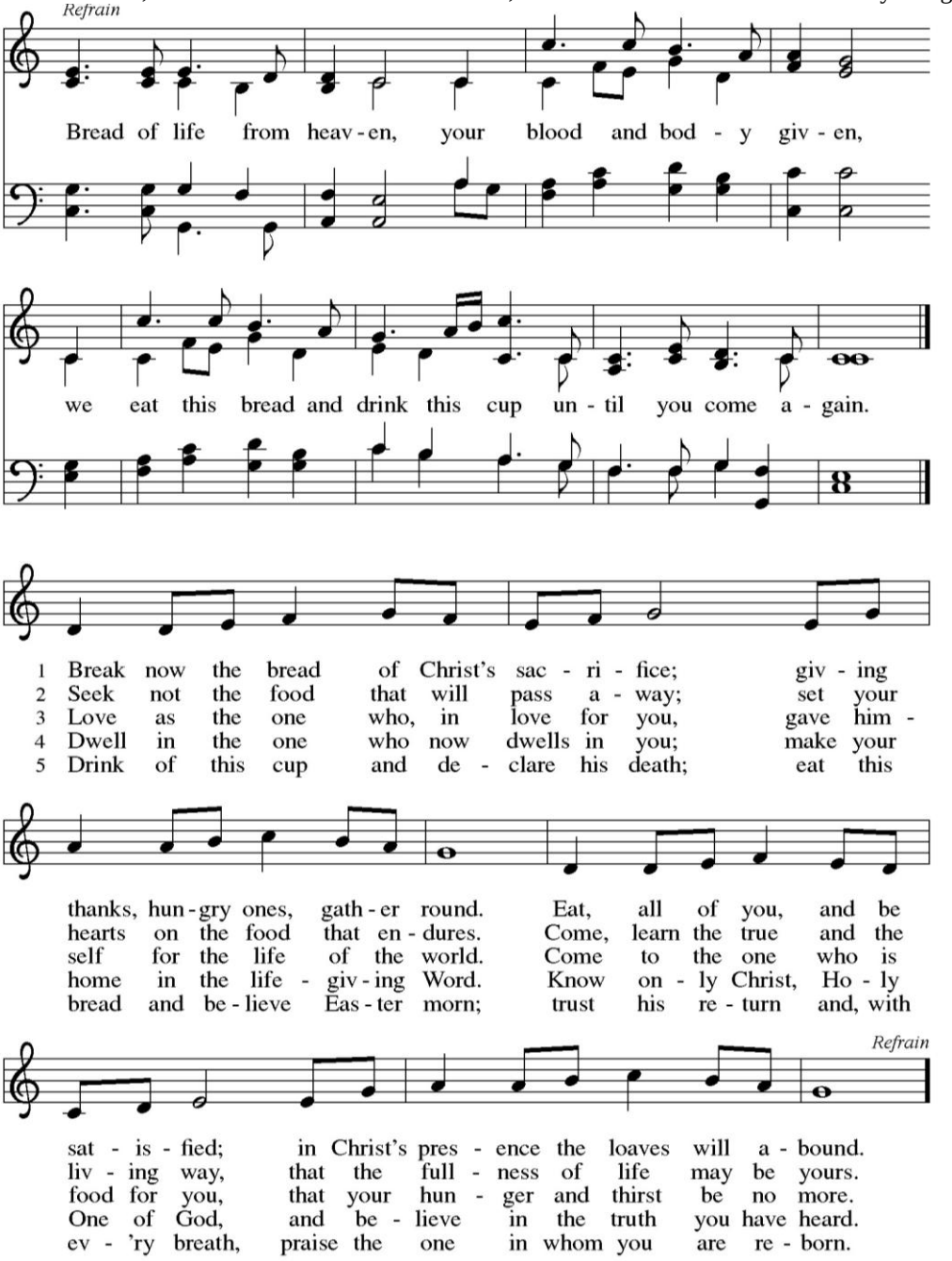



TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

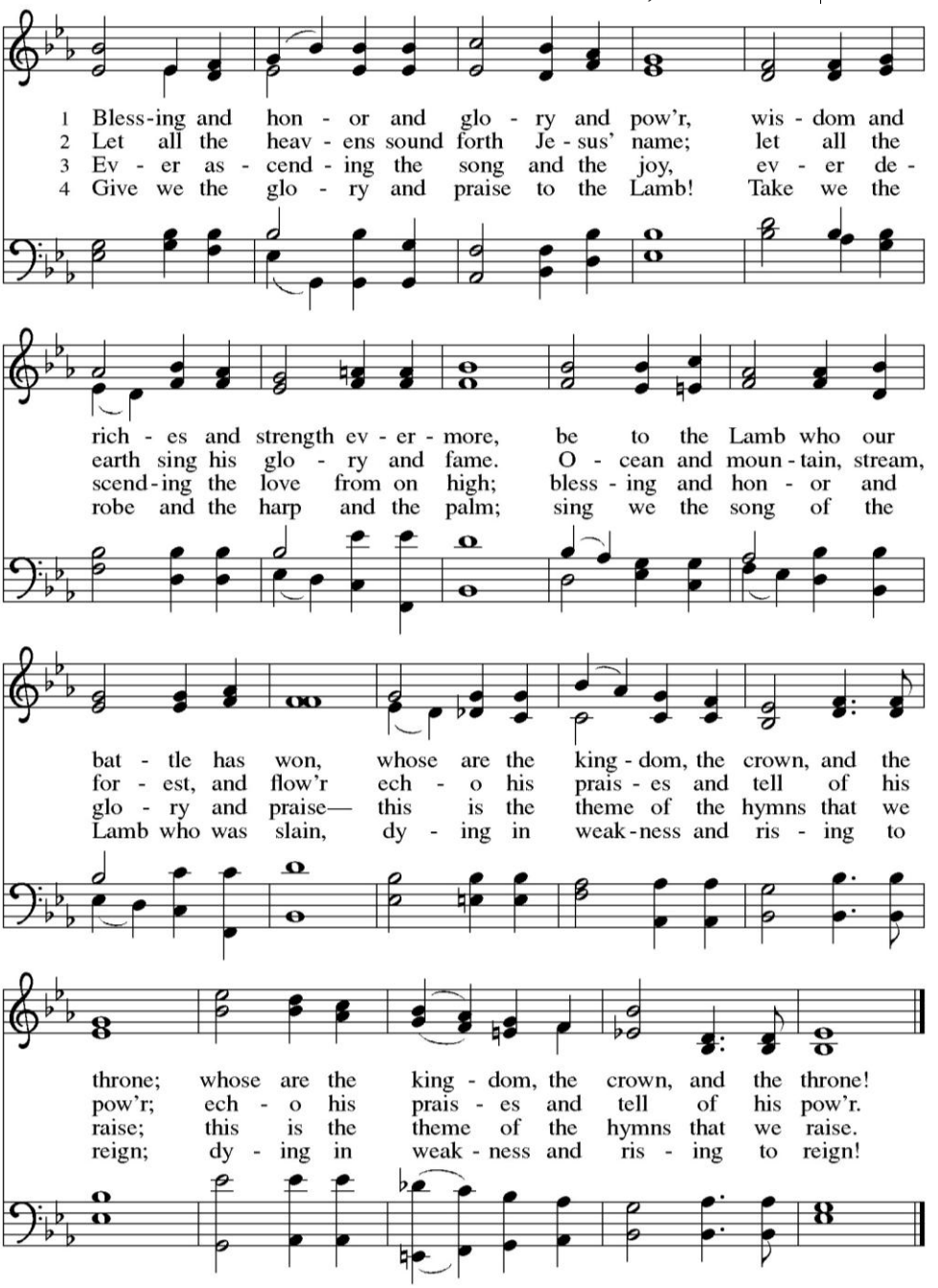
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing and Honor

Text: Horatius Bonar Music: AMERICAN HYMN, Matthias Keller

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of our parents
by The Shoops.

The rose bud on the altar celebrates the birth of Zander Paul Saunders.
He was born on October 1 and is the son of Jody and Amanda Saunders.
Proud grandparents are Freda and Jeff Dorand.

Please remember in your prayers …

Healing: **Shirley Martin** (11/7)

Continuing Prayers: **Doris Burdick, Joanne Caskey, June Diehl**, **Marcia Hunt, Charles Kampmeyer**, **Don Mayer**, **Kristy Nienstedt**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul, Peggy Stout**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock,** Derek Haugh

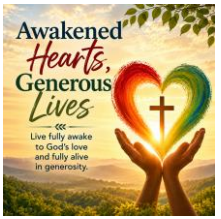
ATTENDANCE October 11 51 in person 14 online

WELCOME to Bishop Stephen Herr

We are blessed to have you with us today and give thanks to God for your presence among as well as for your willingness to fulfill the call of serving the Lower Susquehanna Synod as bishop.

REFORMATION SUNDAY will be next week. Please wear red as we remember the working of the Holy Spirit among us.

PASTORAL CARE Pastor Nicholson will be on vacation from October 19 through October 27. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, you are invited to contact Pastors Denise and Martin Horn at 717-496-5372. Pastor Bill Nienstedt will be leading worship next Sunday.



THANK YOU to all who have returned their anticipated giving card during our *Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives* stewardship campaign climax last Sunday. We are still receiving cards. You are welcome to place your card in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

QUILTS SHIPPING COST Last Sunday we were blessed with seeing the 142 quilts and 248 kits which were dedicated during our worship service. The cost to ship each item overseas is approximately $4.00. Donations to assist with this would be appreciated. Please indicate on your envelope or check that your donation is for Quilt and Kit Shipping. Thanks you for your contribution.

CROP WALK is this afternoon. Gather at 1:30 at Falling Springs Presbyterian Church and the walk will begin at 2:00. The walk helps make us aware of hunger and address the need in our community and world. Your contributions may be made payable to CROP and placed in the offering plate or given to Bill Nienstedt. Thanks.

LADIES BREAKFAST is Wednesday, October 21 at 8:30 a.m. at Texas Lunch. All ladies welcome!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings with Tim Gotwald teaching from the book, "Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Traditions in America." Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 If you have a loved one who has entered the church triumphant between November 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026 whom you would like to have remembered by name on All Saints Sunday, please contact the church office and include the spelling of the name, and date of death if available. felccoffice@gmail.com

HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS hanging time is here again the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items that will help our neighbors stay warm in the winter months. These items will be hung on the church fence. What can you do to help with this project? Purchase new or donate gently used hats, scarves and mittens for men, women and children to donate to this project. Share this with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Volunteer to hang items on the fence. Dates are TODAY, November 1, December 6, and January 16-18. Contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw at 717-372-8282.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS First Lutheran Church is in need of persons who are willing and able to serve on the Congregation Council from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029. Please pray about serving in this leadership capacity. If you are feeling called to serve on our governing body, please speak with Marianne Kennedy, Gerry Wilson, or Jeff Dorand or another council member.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING First Lutheran will be having a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:45 worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect council members to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2027 and to vote on revisions to the constitution as recommended by the congregation council and the ELCA. The constitutional revisions may be found online at www.felcc.org under 'resources.' Anywhere there are highlights, means that revisions are recommended. Printed copies of the constitution will be available at the entrances to the worship space on November 8.

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS First Lutheran will be receiving new members on Sunday, December 13 during the 10:45 worship service. If you have an interest in or questions about becoming a member of First Lutheran, please speak with Pastor Nicholson.

BIRTHDAY BAGS continue to bring joy to the recipients! I am in supplies: large birthday bags, paper plates, napkins, balloons, candles, cake pans, cake mixes, icings, and snack items. Thank you for your support! Joyce Ray

GRIEF SHARE at Christian Life Church located at 1400 Warm Spring Rd. Chambersburg is hosting a "Surviving the Holidays" seminar will be offered 0n November 14 from 10 to noon. There is no cost. Register: https://christianlifechambersburg.churchcenter.com/registrations/events Contact Lisa Fidler at 717-404-3599 with questions.

HABITAT HUMANITY USED BOOK SALE & DONATIONS Donations accepted at Habitat for Humanity and at Patriot's Federal Credit Union. Accepting new and used books on all subjects, including paperbacks. We also welcome artwork, DVDs, audio books (on CD), puzzles, and board games. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, musty books, cassette tapes, and VHS videos. Sale dates at St. John's UCC: Friday, October 23- 2-8pm; Saturday, October 24 - 9am-5pm & Sunday, October 25 - noon-4pm.

SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations– domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org

THIS WEEK AT FIRST
October 18 - 25

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion with Bishop Herr. Lunch to follow
	1:30 p.m.	Crop Walk
Monday	1:00 p.m.	NTT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Ladies Breakfast at Texas Lunch
	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Hand Bells
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion Wear Red

	October 18	**October 25**	**November 1**
Lector:	Nancy Fricke	Joyce Ray	Becky Hoover
Communion Assistants:	Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald	Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald Karen Sloan	Donna Ross Mike Ross Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy
Ushers:	Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Bob Wildeson	Bob Wildeson	Don Shoop Kathy Shoop

43 West Washington Street
Chambersburg Pa 17201

www.felcc.org
FELCCoffice@gmail.com
717–264-2015

Pastor	The Rev. Jane Nicholson
Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Director of Church Music	Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Parish Administrator	Ashley Hessong
Treasurer	Sally Herritt
Financial Secretary	Carol McCoy
Technical Lead	Daniel Worcester
Custodian	Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.
Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps. at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:45 a.m.
also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org
ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus, and to worship with us.