Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

In-Gathering Sunday

October 11, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS

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.

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

This morning during worship, we will be dedicating our school kits, baby kits and personal care kits, and fabric kits, as well as our wonderful quilts.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to make 60 school kits, 60 baby kits, 106 health kits, 22 fabric kits, and 142 quilts for those in need. Your contributions to ship these items are appreciated.

Thank you for all your donations to make this possible!

GATHERING

WELCOME

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son,
that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger.
We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil,
so that our lives and actions may please you.
Into your hands we commend ourselves:
our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.
Let your holy angel be with us,
so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able.

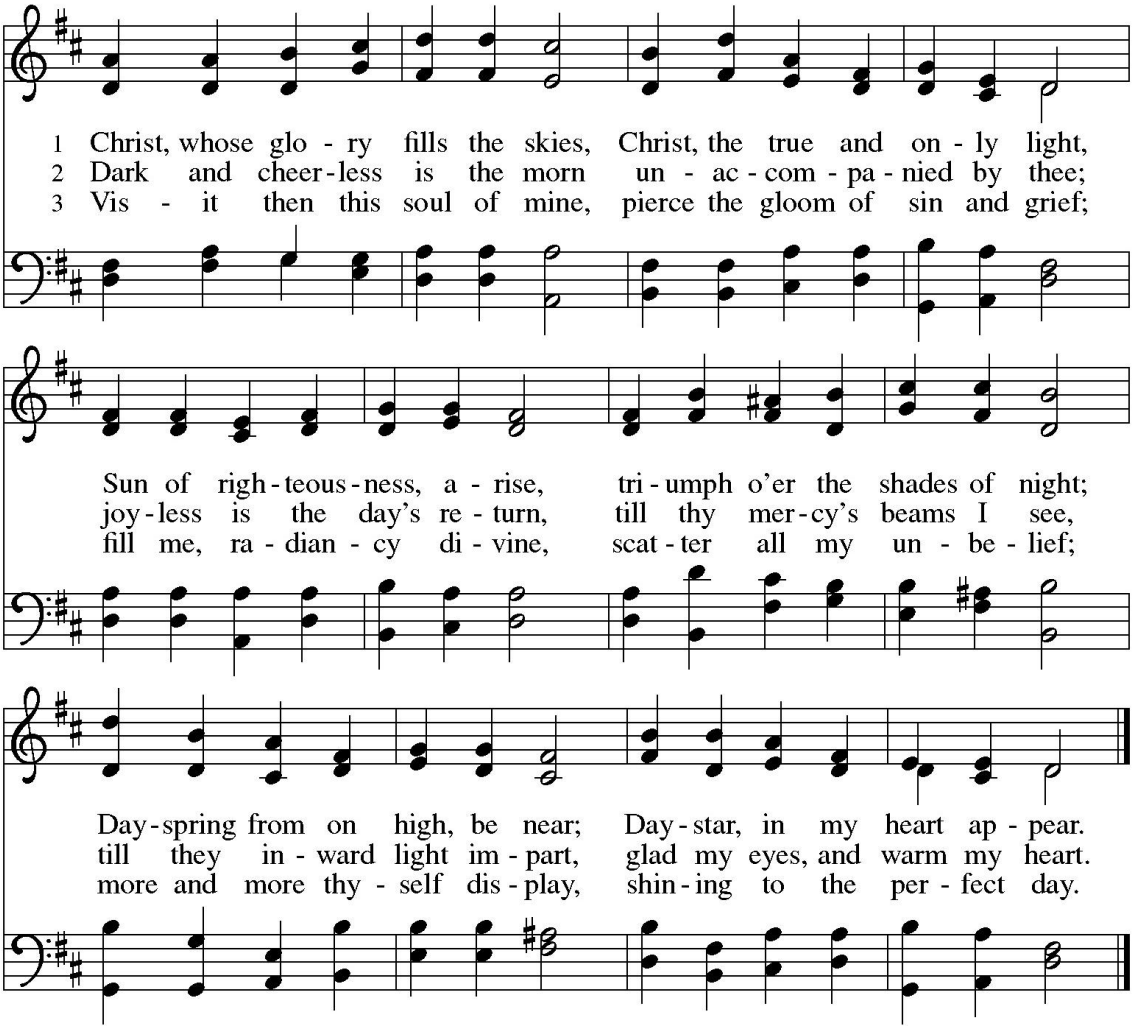
Come, beloved people of God. Come awake to the wonder of God's love.
We come with hearts ready to receive, to rejoice, and to respond.

Open your eyes to the gifts that surround you,
the gift of this day, this community, this life,
and the grace of God that meets us in every moment.
We open our hearts to God's abundant love.

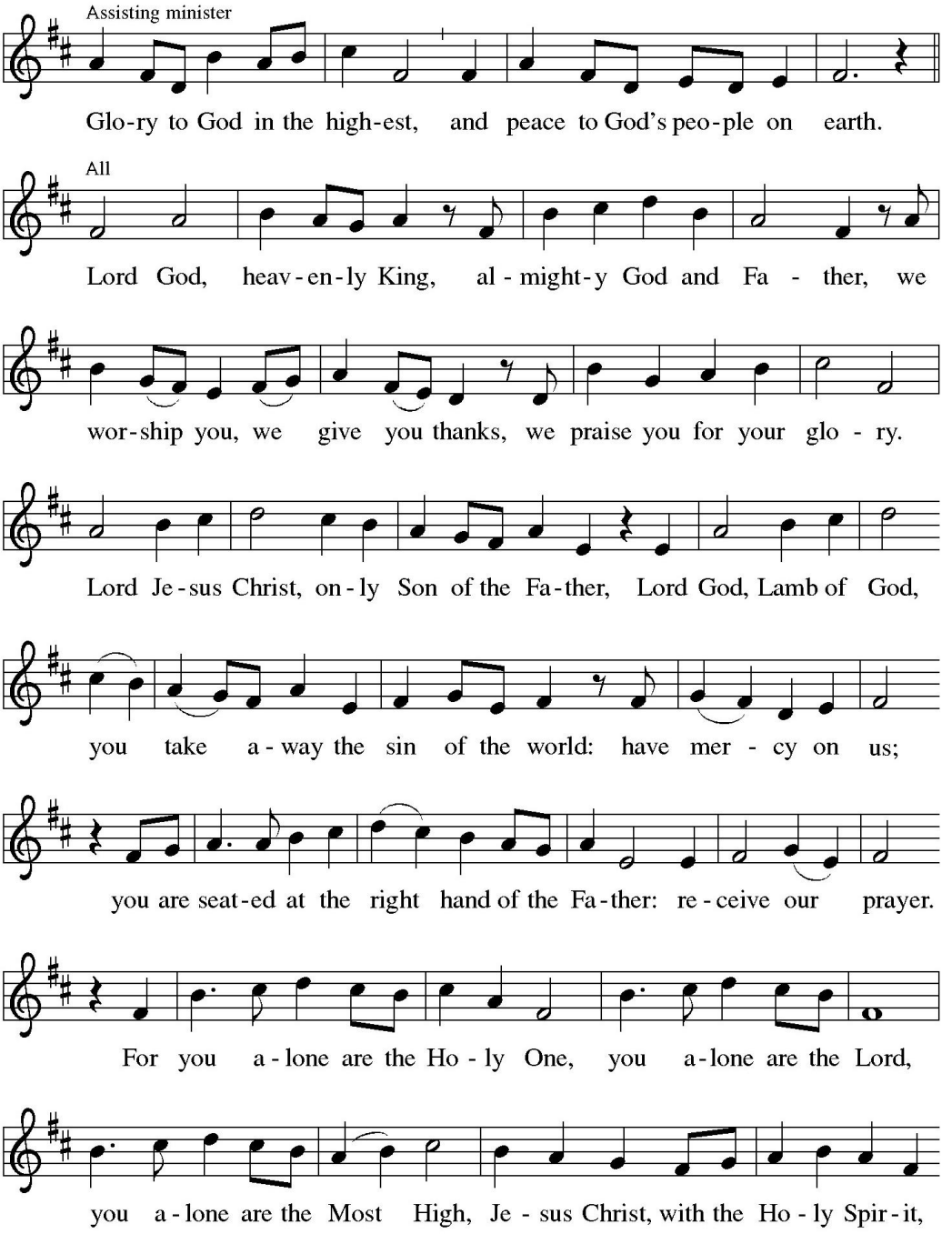
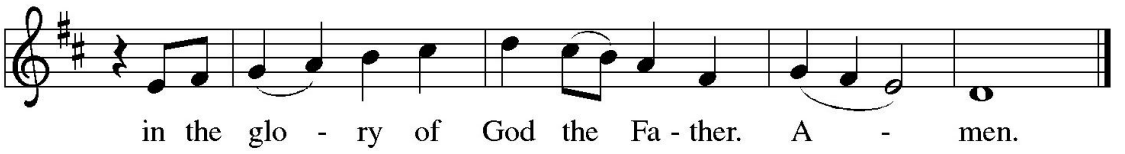
God's love does not leave us unchanged.
It awakens us to the needs of our neighbors,
the beauty of creation, and the gifts God has entrusted to us.
We desire to live fully awake and fully alive.

Let us worship with grateful hearts, generous spirits,
and lives ready to be poured out in love.
Come, let us worship the Lord!

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Text: Charles Wesley Music: RATISBON, J.G. Werner, Choralbuch

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

Let us pray. **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jean Reed

BLESSING OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF ITEMS Mary Beth McGraw Warne

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing. **We are honored to be a part of your work, O Lord.**

God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.
Continue to use our hands, feet, and voices to share your love with the world.

God, be with our neighbors around the world who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Isaiah 25:1-9** Jane Love

1 O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

4 For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM **Psalm 23** Nancy Hamilton

[1] The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

[2] **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**
and leads me beside still waters.

[3] You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

[4] **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

[5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

[6] **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING **Philippians 4:1-9** Nancy Fricke

[1] My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm
in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

[2] I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. [3] Yes,
and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have
struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest
of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

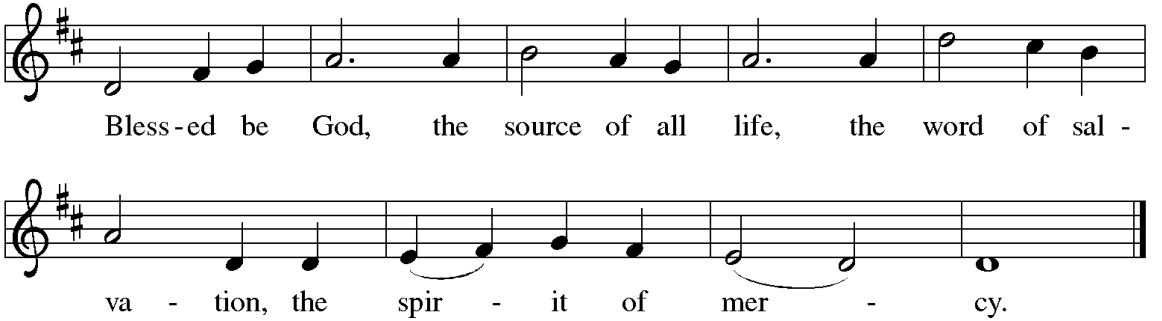
[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be
known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever
is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there
is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these
things. [9] As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and
noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL **Matthew 22:1-14**

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

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven
may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his
slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would
not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited:
Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' 5 But they
made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the
rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged.
He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said
to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go
therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding
banquet.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they
found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

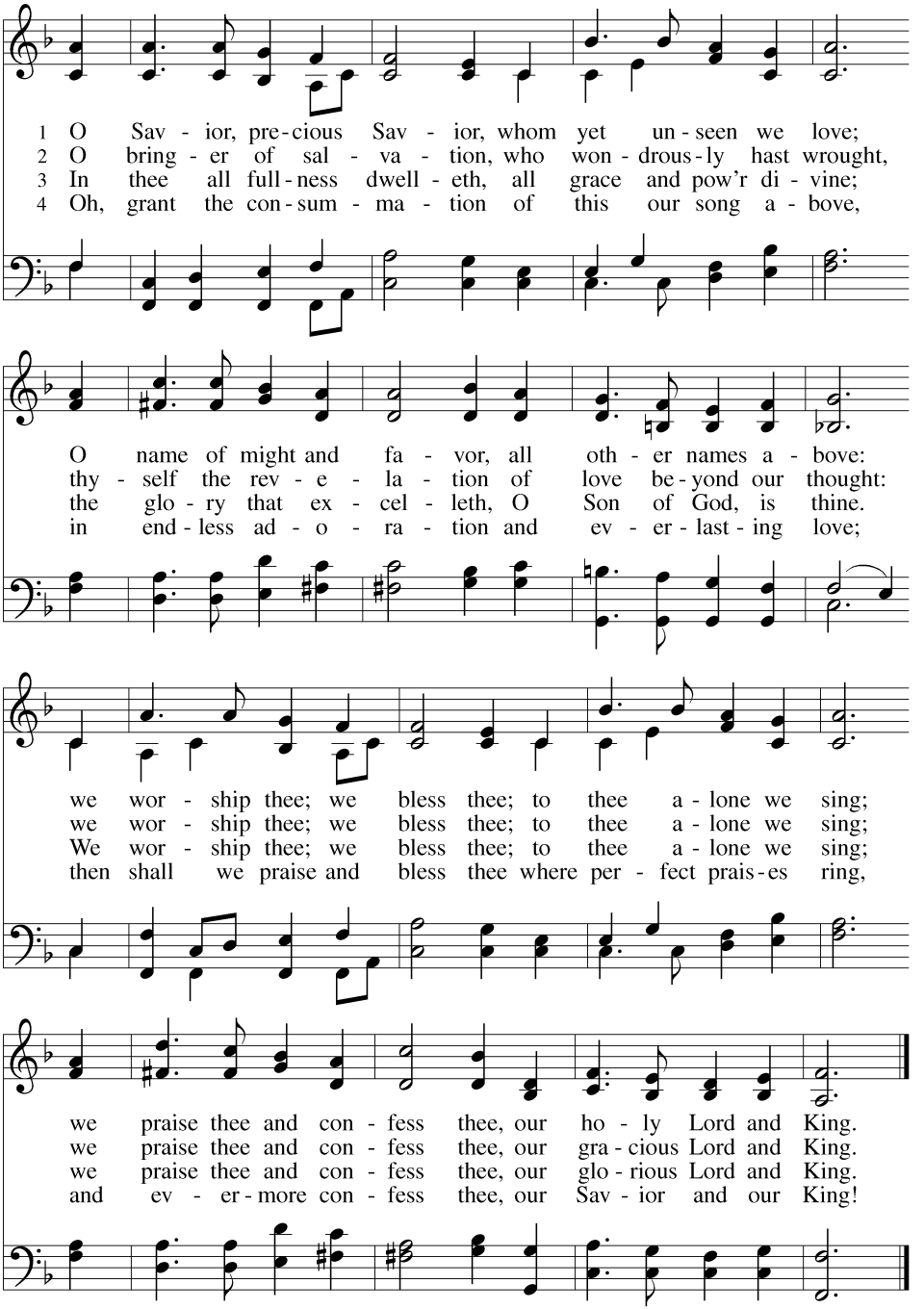
11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who
was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in
here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are
chosen."

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

Please be seated

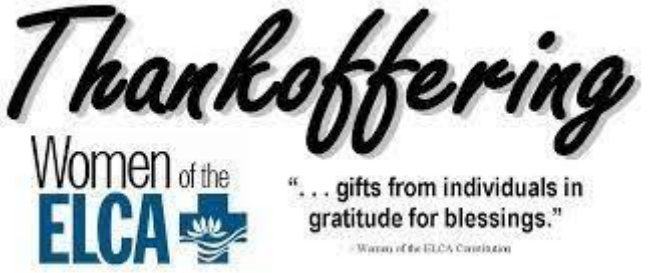
SERMON
Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER
Please stand as you are able.

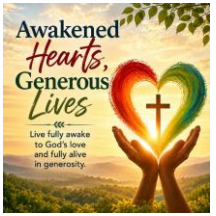
O Savior, Precious Savior

PEACE

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

OUR RESPONSE



As we give our offerings today, we share in a tradition that goes back at least to the 1800's, when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. In these societies, each woman collected offerings at home. On occasion, they would gather as we do today to worship and make their offerings with thanks and praise. When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Together we do more then we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, you are invited to mail any Thankoffering Gifts to the church office by the end of November. Please make checks payable to "Women of the ELCA."



AWAKENED HEARTS, GENEROUS LIVES

Please place your anticipated giving cards in the offering plate with your regular offering. Thank you.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

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

ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY *(to the tune of Morning Has Broken)*

Verse 1 You have entrusted your gifts to our keeping,
Time and our talents, our treasure and care.
Not for possession, but for your kingdom,
Not to be hoarded, but freely to share.

Verse 2 May every dollar and hour we offer,
Every gift given, each kindness we show,
Become a reflection of Christ's loving presence,
A seed of your kingdom wherever we go.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, all blessings are from you. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors.
We dedicate our offering and our anticipated giving cards to your glory and pray that we may be faithful in our desires to give throughout our lives.
May our giving become a way of living,
fully awake to your love and fully alive in generosity. Amen.

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

Joyce Ray

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

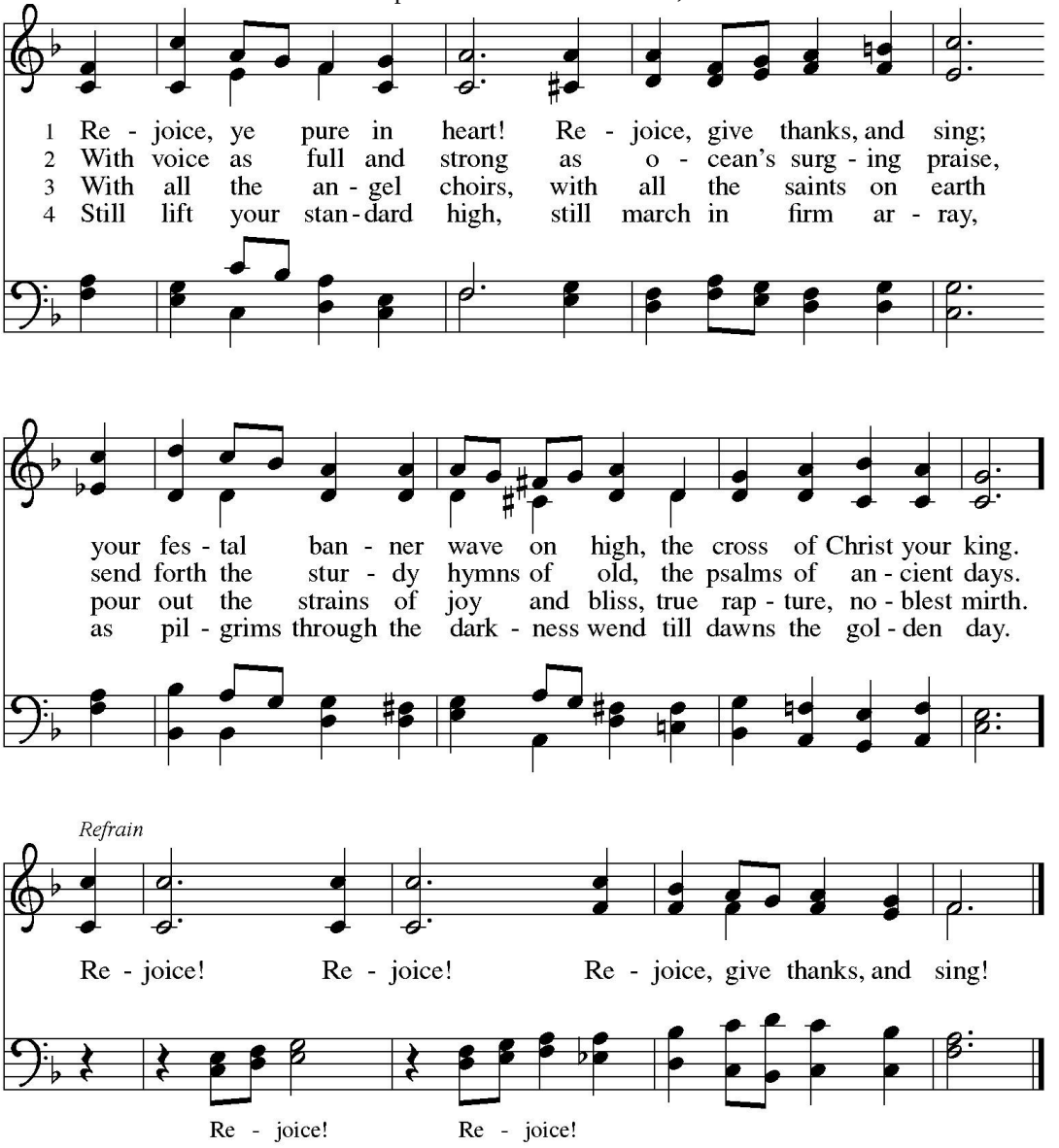
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God who has fully awakened you in love,
and made you fully alive in generosity,
bless and keep you today and forever more.
Amen.

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go with awakened hearts, open to God's abundant love.
We go with generous lives, ready to share God's gifts with others.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of Emery's Birthday
by Mike and Donna Ross.

Please remember in your prayers …

Healing: Bob Hockensmith (10/15), **Kristy Nienstedt** (11/1)

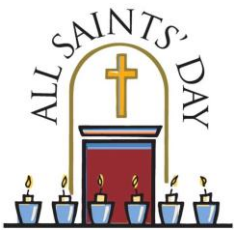
Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, June Diehl**, **Marcia Hunt, Charles Kampmeyer**, **Don Mayer**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul, Peggy Stout**

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

ATTENDANCE October 4 56 in person 31 online

NEXT SUNDAY…. VISIT FROM BISHOP HERR Bishop Steven Herr will join us on Sunday, October 18. Conversation time with the Bishop will be at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. He will be giving us an update on the ministry in the synod and then have a time of question answer. Bishop Herr will preach and preside at Communion that morning at 10:45 and there will be a light lunch following the service. The sign up for lunch is by the main office door in Memorial Hall. Please sign up by October 11. We hope you will join us for this time together.

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



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 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.

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 to discover the answers to these questions and many more.

BIBLE STUDY happens on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Please join us here at church as we study the Book of Romans. If you miss one or two, the next session will still make sense. Facilitator: Pastor Nicholson.

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 Thank you for considering.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	October 11	October 18	October 25
Lector:	Nancy Fricke Nancy Hamilton Jane Love Joyce Ray	Nancy Fricke	Joyce Ray
Communion Assistants:		Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald	Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Janet Friend	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson
Ushers:	Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Barb Evans	Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Bob Wildeson	Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Bob Wildeson

THIS WEEK AT FIRST October 11 – October 18

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	In-Gathering Worship & ELCA Sunday
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting and Scouts
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Hand Bells
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
		FNF DEADLINE
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Conversation time with Bishop Herr in FH
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion with Bishop Herr. Lunch to follow
	1:30 p.m.	Crop Walk

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.