Service of Holy Communion
Christ the King
26th Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2026



INTRODUCTION

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

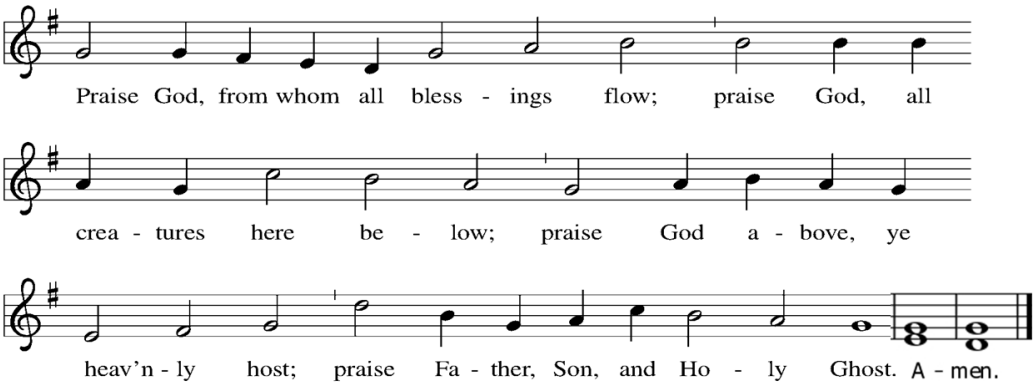
GATHERING HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855

THE 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
A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C. Lord, have mercy.
A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.
A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C. Lord, have mercy.
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C. Lord, have mercy.
A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

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

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a *(read responsively)*

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

[3] For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
[7a] For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's 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.

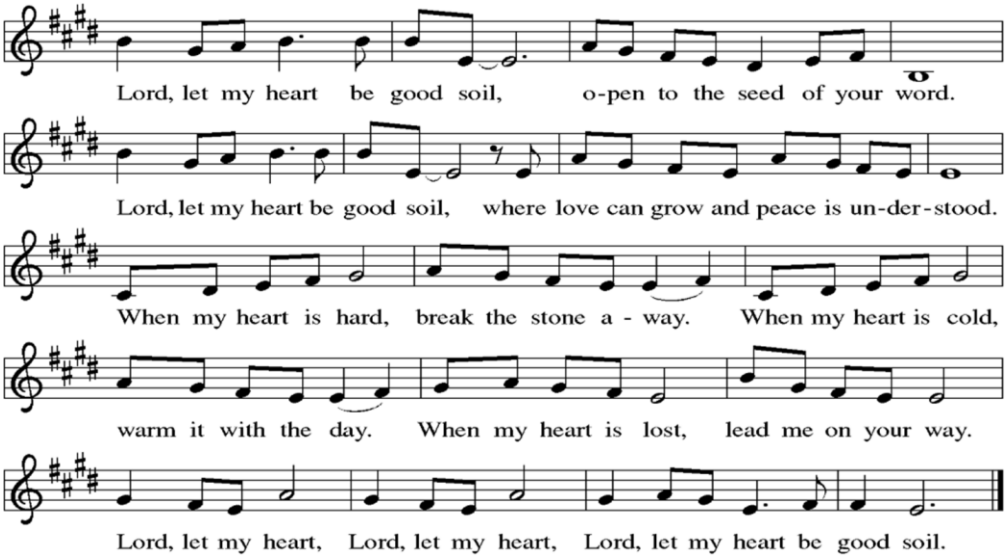
A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON Giving, Caring, Welcoming, Visiting

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY Jesus Shall Reign ELW 434

APOSTLE’S 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 THE CHURCH

A. 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, **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, **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. God, in your mercy, **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. We pray especially for… those we name aloud… and those we hold in our hearts... 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, **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, **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.**

BLESSING OF THE SKIS & KNEES
All skiers and snowboarders are invited forward with their materials for a special blessing.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.
C. And also with you.
P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM All Praise to You, Almighty King
Johnson, Marino, Smith

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

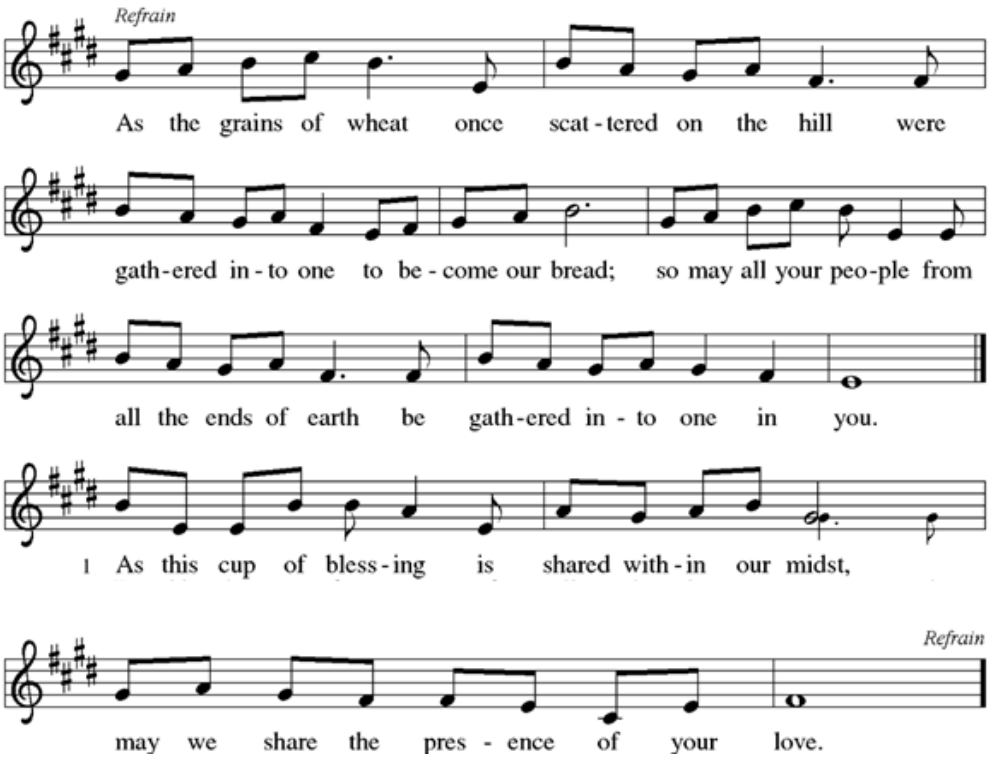
Scan to give via Venmo

Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.
Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give via Tithely

Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG



OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray… 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. **Amen**.

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

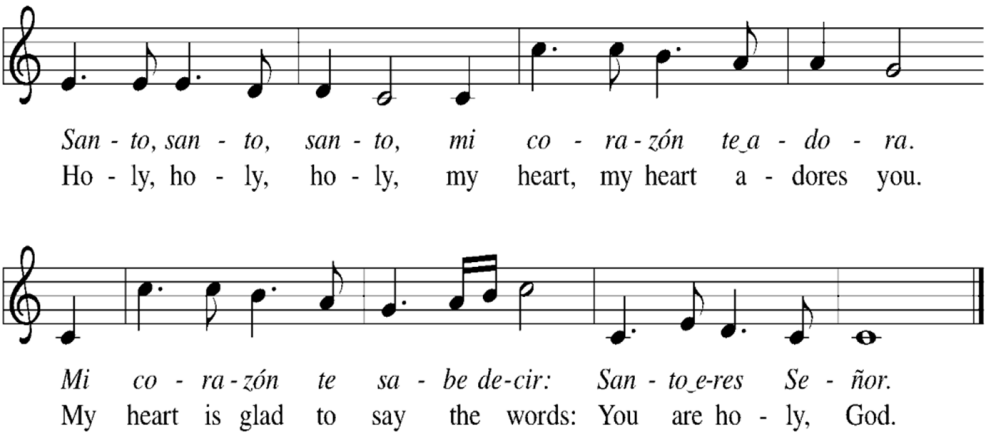
P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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: *(Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time)*



Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation sits or kneels

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen!**

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.

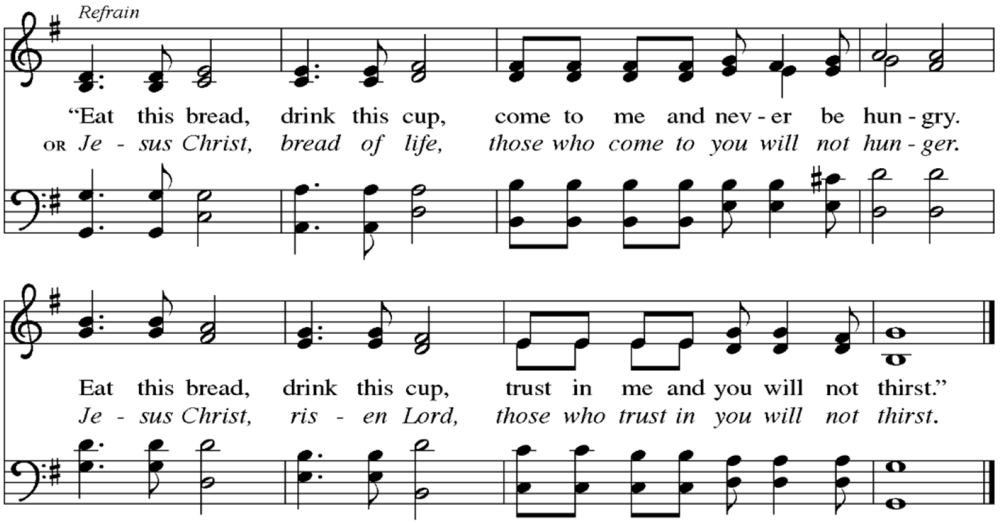
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

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

COMMUNION SONG



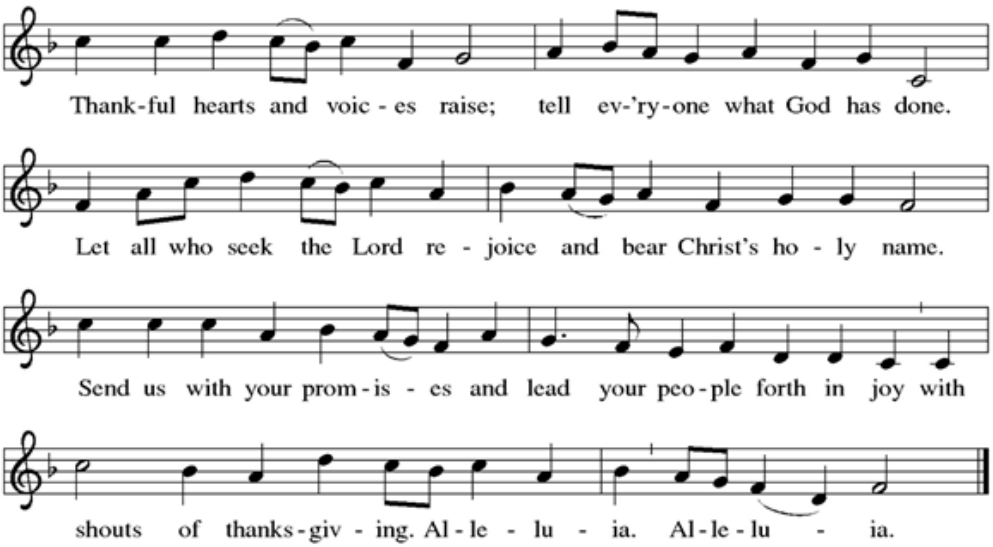
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... 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. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN Awesome God W&P 13
(printed in back)

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C. Thanks be to God.

Announcements for November 22, 2026

Welcome *to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

If today is your ***first time*** *worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and* ***take a welcome bag****. Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning.* ***Large print bulletins*** *are available.*

The ***Pray-ground*** *is a special place to help* ***support kids and families*** *in worshiping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here.* ***Tips:*** *explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

Worship is live streamed *to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.* ***Anyone on the altar is on camera.***

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Altar flowers are in honor of
Katie's birthday, from Dawn McCormick and
Weston Murphy's birthday, from the Murphy family!

Thank you, Gail MacPeek, for this morning's refreshments!!

~~~~~~

Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	Pam Kucks
Ushers	Diane Rossi & Toby Sherman
Comm. Asst.	*Volunteer needed*
Tech	Mark Rossi
Tellers	*Volunteer needed*
Refreshments	Gail MacPeek

Volunteers Scheduled for Next Sunday

Lay Asst.	Emilie Dupont
Ushers	Janet Beach & Jeanne VonOesen
Tech	Mark Rossi

******* Join us for refreshments after worship*******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, November 22: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am
Blessing of Skis & Knees during worship
Youth Group pass out Food Drive flyers after worship
Choir Rehearsal following worship
Monday, November 23: Spending Plan Meeting, 7-8:30pm
Wednesday, November 25: Advent Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am & 7pm
Thursday, November 26: Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed
Turkey Trot, 6:45am
Saturday, November 28: Hanging of the Greens, 9:00-11:00am
Sunday, November 29: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, Advent, 9:30am
Food Drive pick-up after worship
Choir Rehearsal following worship

Advent Study: The Advent Adult Ed Study **begins this Wednesday** on Zoom. You can join the morning study from **10-11am or** the evening study from **7-8pm.** This is a 4-week series ending, 12/16. Please contact Pam Kucks or Pastor Peggy if you are interested. The books are in the church office.

Poinsettia Orders: Order forms are available for our annual poinsettia sale which will help beautify the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Worship. Following worship, you get to take them home. Note "poinsettias" with your payment via check, cash, or Venmo. **Order forms** can be **placed** in the offering plate or turned into the church office. The **deadline** for ordering is **NEXT Sunday, November 29th.**

Hanging of the Greens: Our annual Hanging of the Greens is **THIS Saturday, November 28th from 9-11am.** Come join in the fun, decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. **Snacks will be provided.** All are welcome, many hands make light work!

New Member Sunday: We will be welcoming new members during worship **Sunday, December 6th**! If you are interested in being a member connect with Pastor Peggy today!

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser: Come enjoy **'Cheeses for Jesus! Wine Not?**' for a fun pre-dinner tasting on **Saturday, December 5th from 2-4pm**. Wine will be paired with cheeses and chocolates. Tickets are **$25 per person**. We encourage **signing up in advance**, so we have enough wine for everyone!

HCLC Lunch Bunch: The next lunch date will be **Tuesday, December 8th at 12:30pm** at Wesselhoff Farms in Lafayette. Please RSVP to Debbie by December 6th. Hope to see you there!

Spending Plan Q&A: **Following worship on Sunday, December 13th we will have our spending plan Q&A.** This is the time to ask questions about the proposed spending plan for 2027. This allows us to have a smooth annual meeting in January.

Angels & Stars: Would you like to add a Christmas Angel or Star to our beautiful Christmas tree? **Please fill out the form in the narthex and return to the office by Sunday, December 13th.** The Angels and Stars are added to our decorations to celebrate and remember anyone you would like this holiday season.

Pastor's Community Office Hours-December: Pastor Peggy will be at **Café Dolci** in Warwick**, Tuesday, December 8th and 15th from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to visit as she is present in the community.

Raise Right Holiday Earnings Challenge: Make the season of giving more rewarding**! Complete the Holiday Earning Challenge** by December 25th to get a $10 eGift card and enter to win one of five $500 grand prizes. **Participants need to register** by adding their email address in the app. You can ask John Heeren for assistance.

RaiseRight Gift Cards for Shopping/Gifts/Holidays: As you are preparing gifts for the upcoming holidays, we want to remind you of our ongoing program RaiseRight! You can **purchase gift cards** to be sent to others **as gifts or** you can get gifts cards **for the places you are buying from** during this season. As well as for anytime you shop all year long!

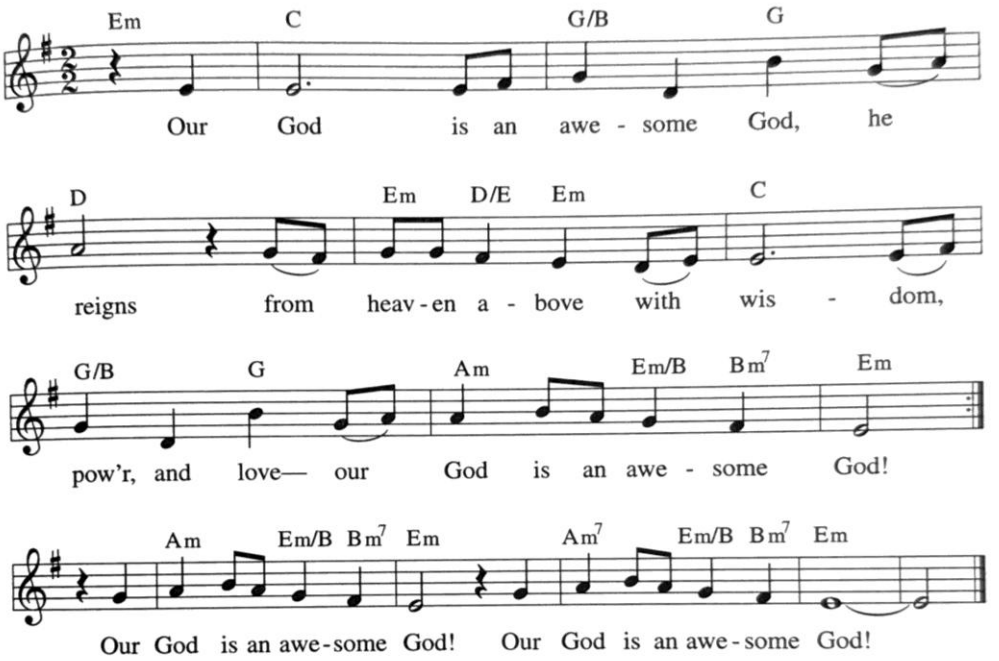
There are **2 ways to get cards:** You can do this **via the RaiseRight app** on your phone or via the order forms with a selection of cards that can be ordered through HCLC. The **Raiseright book is in the Narthex**. Share the forms with your family and friends too. **It works by** simply buying gift cards to stores where you already shop, you get the full value, and then the church gets a percentage back. **Download the RaiseRight app** & link to the church with **enrollment code:** 53EB2E841L3275 – our RaiseRight ID number. Speak with John Heeren for more information.

Christmas Eve Worship: Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be Thursday, December 24th at 5pm. We hope you and your families will join us! Invite your friends to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: 4-pack toilet paper, canned tuna, canned chili, canned corn, canned soup, canned green beans, canned fruit, canned pasta, boxed potatoes, tuna helper, pasta sauce, brownie mix, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, kid's snacks, toothpaste, body wash. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

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Awesome God


Em C G/B G
Our God is an awe - some God, he
D Em D/E Em C
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,
G/B G Am Em/B Bm7 Em
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!
Am Em/B Bm7 Em Am7 Em/B Bm7 Em
Our God is an awe-some God! Our God is an awe-some God!

Holy Counselor
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Information
(973) 827-5251 office
www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT
As Children of God, we are called to share and serve Christ's love and bring God's word to all.

CHURCH COUNCIL
Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Frank Urbaniak
Treasurer Claire Speroni
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Aileen Donovan
Debbie Lennon
Doug Vince
Kristina Heeren
Pam Kucks

***Land Acknowledgement**: Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
RECONCILING IN CHRIST